

One British diplomat stays on in Baghdad as warlike mood intensifies

UN troops for Kuwait hint

By RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers will meet in Paris today to discuss the UN Secretary-General, in Geneva today to discuss his peace mission to Baghdad. Page 2

FOLLOWING the evacuation of the British embassy in Baghdad, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, begins a five-nation tour of the Middle East today. Page 2

AMERICA told its Nato allies that an Iraqi promise to quit Kuwait would not be enough to prevent an attack. Page 3

LLOYD'S of London, the insurance market, is planning to open on Sundays for the first time in its 300-year history if hostilities break out in the Middle East. Conflict could also lead to soaring shipping and aircraft insurance rates. Page 19

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, who arrived in Saudi Arabia to begin a tour of the anti-Iraqi frontlines, is to see John Major, the prime minister, in London at the weekend. Page 3

AFTER Mr Baker discussed the abortive Geneva talks with Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, Moscow called for a last-ditch peace attempt. Page 2

ISRAEL warned Jordan not to let Iraqi troops on its soil if war breaks out. Page 4

TARIQ Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, returned to Baghdad, dashing hopes that he might meet EC ministers in Algiers.

JEAN-Pierre Chevènement, the French defence minister, said America should make a "very small gesture" to Iraq by agreeing to an international conference on the Middle East. Page 2



Unconscious patients could be HIV tested

An HIV blood test may be taken from an unconscious patient during an operation if a member of the theatre staff is injured and therefore exposed to infection, the Royal College of Surgeons has said in guidelines to its members. A positive test would allow the doctor or nurse to take a drug which could delay the onset of Aids. Page 18

Peace mission



In the first of her Friday interviews Kate Muir (above) meets Sydney Bailey, professional pacifist, Quaker and man with an urgent mission. Page 14

Tory threat

The recession is biting deep into the Tory heartlands of southern England and Conservative MPs are likely to pay a high price for the government's economic failings at the next election, Labour leaders were told. Page 8

Saatchi blow

Shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, dropped 10p to 24p as the company finally unveiled its long awaited financial reconstruction. Page 19

German gloom

Unification threatens to wipe out Germany's traditional trade surplus. November's surplus was just DM762 million, compared with DM10.6 billion a year ago. Page 17

Football float

Manchester United have announced plans to float the club on the stock market to raise money to help finance a £13 million refurbishment at Old Trafford. Page 34

England fail

England's cricketers failed to qualify for the finals of the World Series Cup when they lost to Australia by three runs in Melbourne. Page 34

INDEX

Arts	15,16	Letters	11
Births, marriages, deaths	13	Life & Times	14
Business	19-25	Motoring	27
Court & social	12	Obituaries	12
Crosswords	13,18	Sport	30-34
Law Report	29	TV & radio	17
Leading articles	11	Weather	17



Desert style: a British tank commander muffled against the Saudi sand yesterday

Cabinet prepares after Geneva talks failure

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government was put on a war footing yesterday, as senior ministers gave the cabinet reports on contingency plans for a conflict. Ministers left the cabinet meeting with the clear impression that war is now "likely" following the breakdown of talks between the US and Iraq. The House of Commons will hold a full scale debate on the confrontation in the Gulf next Tuesday - the UN deadline for Baghdad's forces to withdraw from Kuwait. John Major will open for the government in a debate that is

likely to expose divisions within the Labour party over the leadership's stance on the confrontation. Although the Labour leadership wants sanctions to be given more time to work, Mr. Kinnock told his colleagues at a shadow cabinet meeting in London: "If conflict comes at any time, all support must and would, of course, be given by use to our forces". The mood at the cabinet meeting was described by those present as "sombre". In the 75-minutes devoted to the Gulf, ministers heard reports on the confrontation from the

prime minister as well as Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Tom King, defence secretary. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary outlined the potential threat of Iraqi terrorist attacks and measures taken to counter it, and William Waldegrave, the health secretary, reported on arrangements to deal with casualties. Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary explained war risk insurance measures for shipping and airlines. One minister said afterwards: "Everyone now believes war is likely". Ministers believe that the intervention of Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, is the best realistic hope of a breakthrough.

Kremlin turns in fury on Vilnius leaders

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev, in some of the harshest tones he has ever adopted with a rebellious republic, yesterday urged Lithuania's parliament to end what he called gross violations of the Soviet constitution. His warning was immediately denounced by Kazimieras Moteka, the Baltic republic's deputy president, as a sign that "the most reactionary forces of the Soviet empire are attacking us".

There was a clear hint from Mr Gorbachev that the assembly, which earlier this week voted out the local government because of quarrels over economic policy, could be suspended if it did not step back from its refusal to recognize Soviet authority. Using old-fashioned communist language, the Soviet leader accused the Vilnius legislators, who astonished the world last March by reasserting Lithuania's full statehood, of leading the territory back to a bourgeois system and violating human rights. Mr Gorbachev said "immediate measures" were needed to address complaints from Lithuanian factories, political organizations and citizens of all ethnic groups.

The president said: "People are demanding the restoration of constitutional order, reliable guarantees of security and normal living conditions. Having lost their faith in the policy pursued by the present leadership, they demand... presidential rule."

The Kremlin leader went on to "suggest" that the authority of the Soviet Union be restored without delay.

Mr Moteka, who informed the Lithuanian legislature of the President's message, said Moscow was "continuing the crimes that it perpetrated in 1940" when the three Baltic states were annexed by Stalin.

Tensions in the Lithuanian capital rose again yesterday after workers at a Moscow-run factory in the outskirts walked out and appeared at one point to be marching on the parliament. In neighbouring Latvia, pro-Moscow communists and supporters of continued Soviet rule demonstrated yesterday outside the Council of Ministers, demanding the resignation of the pro-independence government and the reversal of price increases.

Moscow accused, page 9

SATURDAY

Voices from the crucible



It was a rare meeting of giants - Arthur Miller (above), America's greatest living playwright, travelled halfway across the world to talk to Nelson Mandela, South Africa's most famous son

SATURDAY REVIEW

Infernal combustion?

'The driver is the only breed which is simultaneously plentiful and in danger of being hunted to extinction'. Proud motorist Peter Barnard sheds a few tears on the hard shoulder

SATURDAY REVIEW

Where to ski and not be seen



Gstaad means more than rest and relaxation to the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Julie Andrews and Roger Moore (above). The Swiss village is also a refuge from fame

SATURDAY REVIEW

New homes for old

The slump in the property market has led to a boom in renovation and restoration. Your guide to the best - and worst - ways to move up the housing ladder without changing your address

WEEKEND LIVING

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City quietly waiting for war

From MAAMOUN YOUSSEF, REUTER, IN KUWAIT CITY

IRAQI tanks, army vehicles and camouflaged emplacements dot the vast desert around Kuwait City, waiting for war. From the air, the emirate seized by Iraq on August 2 appears like a fortress, facing expected attack from January 15 by the US-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

A newly-built network of roads stands out like black pencil lines near the city from which hundreds of people are now fleeing each day. Iraq has built a 1,400-mile (2,237km) network of roads and approaches to 13 bridges in the "war operations theatre" over the past three-and-a-half months, Taber Mohammed Hassoun, the construction minister, said on Tuesday.

A group of Baghdad-based Iraqi and other Arab journalists was allowed into the emirate on Tuesday and Wednesday, accompanied by official guides. They were not allowed near front-line positions. Apart from new anti-aircraft nests and Iraqi military roadblocks, there are few signs in Kuwait City of looming war, although residents talk about it constantly.

The 14 hospitals with 5,000 beds have been readied for war emergency. Mohammed Abboud Salman, an Iraqi and general of Kuwait's health department, said: "We have provided for the necessities of water, electricity and medicine in case war erupts." But a pharmacist told Reuters that some medicines were running short and no fresh supplies were available.

City residents said more than 2,000 people, mainly Palestinian and Jordanian families, fleeing Kuwait each day. They head for Jordan, which has announced its border is closed to non-Jordanians, and other points west of the Gulf. Ahmed Nabulsi, a Palestinian street vendor in his late 20s, said: "Hun-

Continued on page 18, col 2

Coloured bride for De Klerk's son

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk's younger son, Willem, has taken his father's commitment to creating an apartheid-free South Africa to heart and has become engaged to an attractive Coloured woman. Willem, aged 24, and Erica Adams, aged 22, became engaged on December 18, a close relative of Miss Adams said yesterday.

Both their fathers had discussed the betrothal and Mr de Klerk had "professed his pleasure". No date has yet been fixed for the wedding. Miss Adams's father, Mr Deon Adams, is the leader in the Boland, the rural area of the Cape peninsula, of the Labour Party, which controls

the House of Representatives in South Africa's parliament of separate white, Coloured and Indian chambers. Such a marriage would have been illegal in South Africa six years ago. Section 16 of the 1957 Immorality Act and the 1949 Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act which bars love and marriage across the colour line were repealed by President de Klerk's predecessor, P.W. Botha, in 1985 in one of the first important steps towards dismantling statutory apartheid. The couple, who met 18 months ago at a technical college in Cape Town, where both were studying public relations, will be apart for the next six months. Last month Willem left South Africa for a diploma course at Cambridge in preparation for his career.

President de Klerk said yesterday that Willem had not told him of his engagement plans before he left for Britain, but said he was old enough to make his own decisions. "He did not inform me he was considering getting engaged. In fact, I only recently became aware of the existence of a relationship between him and a student friend. My son is 24 years old and has been out of the house for quite a while already." For some hours yesterday Miss Adams coyly avoided confirming her engagement, while at the same time asking for more than £1,000 for copies of a picture of her and Willem together. But then she posed willingly for a Cape Town newspaper, displaying her diamond engagement ring.



Adams: asked £1,000 for picture with her fiancé

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SOVIET UNION

Superpowers work to patch up differences in Gulf policy

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, who is still fulfilling his duties as Soviet foreign minister, yesterday broke a week of silence to express the hope that the planned superpower summit in February would proceed on schedule.

"For our relationship, and the world, we need to calm people down," he said. Vitali Churkin, the foreign ministry spokesman, also restated the Soviet desire not to delay the summit. Moscow and Washington, he said with a degree of irritation, had "a firm agreement" on the date — as though postponement would be a breach of faith.

Despite Mr Shevardnadze's hope and Mr Churkin's assurance, there are signs that the Soviet-US entente of the early summer is not what it was. A spate of meetings

between the US ambassador in Moscow and a variety of Soviet officials in recent days suggests that Washington and Moscow may be trying to prevent the hairline cracks in their five-month alliance against Iraq from growing into fissures.

While the superpowers concur that Iraq's presence in Kuwait must be ended, and that Iraq must not benefit from its aggression, Washington has tended to emphasise that "no means must be ruled out", while Moscow has insisted that a "political solution must be found". This simple divergence has been complicated by inconsistencies in the Soviet position from the start. Mr Shevardnadze always seemed closer, if only in nuance, to the American position than President Gorbachev did, though he never committed Moscow to joining any international military effort.

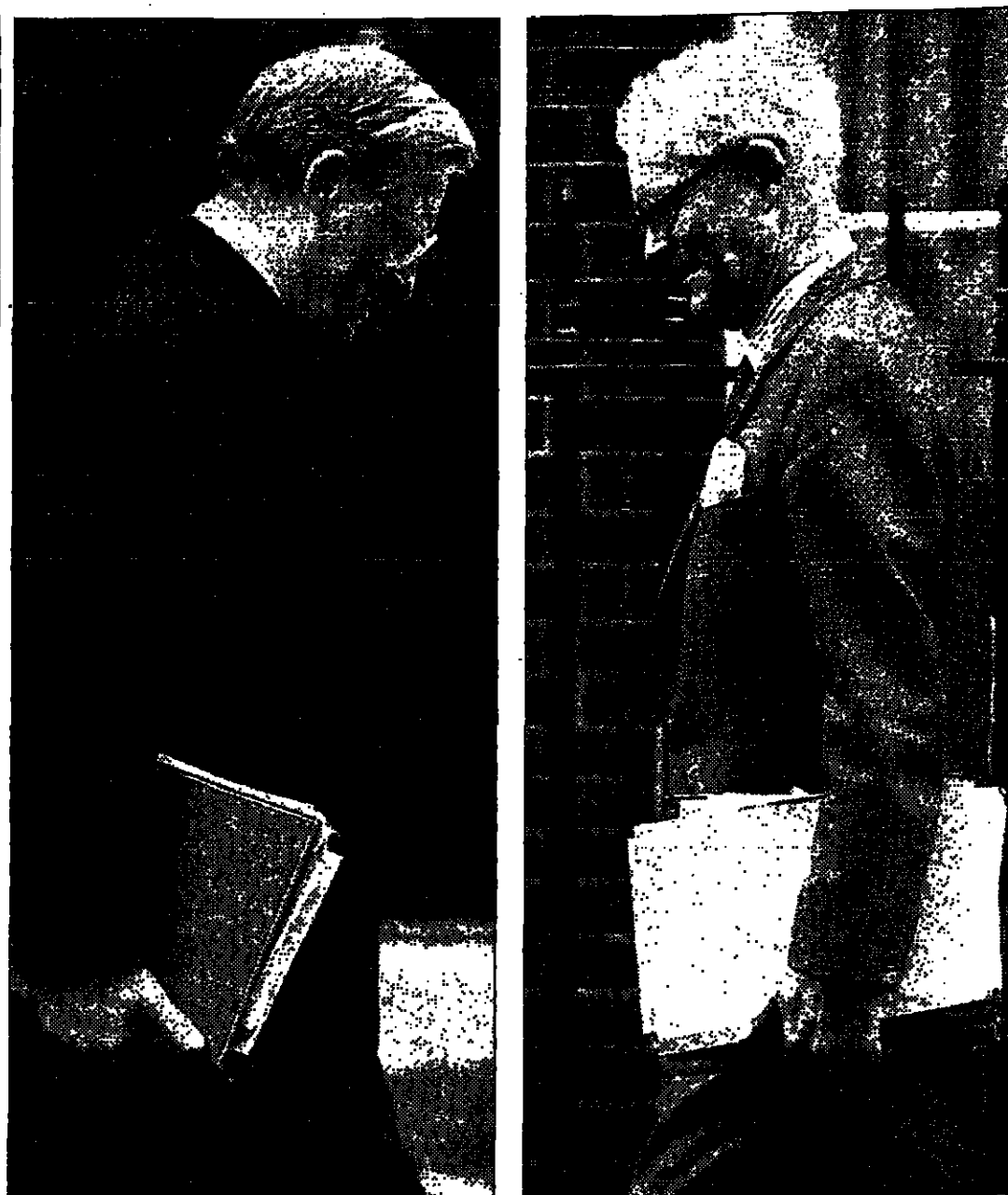
The Soviet position has also been complicated by a pro-Iraq lobby in the military and the foreign ministry, whose members recall Iraq's ideological soundness and warn of Moscow's strategic weakness in the Middle East if its alignment with Iraq is irrevocably broken. As the UN deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait approached and the Geneva talks offered no solution, Moscow seemed to have decided that its interests lay in setting distance between itself and Washington.

The US administration appears to have decided that there are some circumstances — possible Soviet armed intervention in the Baltic states, for instance — that cannot be ignored for the sake of the superpower coalition against Iraq.

The most pessimistic explanation of Moscow's open divergence from the United States at this point is that it reflects a conscious change in Soviet foreign policy connected with Mr Shevardnadze's resignation. The prognosis in this case would be that the differences can only increase.

A second scenario would link Soviet cooling towards the United States with continuing headline pressure on Mr Gorbachev. The foreign ministry insistence that the summit should proceed on schedule, however, could be interpreted as an attempt by the heirs of Mr Shevardnadze to maintain the status quo.

A third view would be that Moscow wants to do no more than protect its national interests in the event that Washington chooses the military option. As a signatory to all the UN resolutions on Iraq, Moscow is a party to this decision and cannot extricate itself without a complete policy reversal. At home, however, the idea of military action by anyone is deeply unpopular, even if no Soviet troops are involved.



Down to business: King, left, and Hurd, leaving Downing Street after a cabinet meeting yesterday at which Major and his colleagues discussed contingency plans should a war erupt

UNITED NATIONS

Diplomats pessimistic over success of Baghdad mission

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NOBODY at United Nations headquarters holds out much hope for the peace mission to Iraq of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general. Even diplomats who have urged him to visit President Saddam Hussein before Tuesday's UN deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait say the prospects are bleak.

While voicing obligatory optimism, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar conceded yesterday that his hands were tied by the UN Security Council's demand for an Iraqi pull-out. "Everybody's hands are tied because we have security council resolutions but, if there is some goodwill, I think there is some room for making progress," he said on his last day of work before leaving for Baghdad. "I hope there is still a chance for peace. That is why I am going. I will listen, and I hope I will be listened to."

Sir David Hannay, Britain's permanent representative at the UN, described the chances of success as "fairly slim". He said: "I am prepared to half-buy the argument that it was extraordinarily improbable that the Iraqis

would back down face-to-face with the Americans and, if it was that, and only that, preventing them from showing flexibility, then they could show some more flexibility to Pérez de Cuéllar than to the Americans."

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar faces the unusual problem for a UN secretary-general that he is not perceived as neutral in the dispute because of the tough stand by members of his organisation, who have passed a string of 12 security council resolutions. UN officials said Señor Pérez de Cuéllar was

not going armed with any new initiatives. Almost the only hope is that Iraq decides to climb down, claiming some concession over a future Middle East peace conference.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said yesterday: "Some time this conference has to take place. When is a question that the parties must decide." The secretary-general, who is expected to report back to the security council on his mission on Monday, underlined yesterday that he had no power to extend the UN deadline.

Man in the news

Peace-maker attempts the mission impossible

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

AFTER his meeting with President Bush at Camp David last Saturday, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, told diplomats that it was Mr Bush, not he, who raised the possibility of his travelling to Baghdad.

Ever since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar had expressed his willingness to visit President Saddam Hussein in search of peace. But the veteran Peruvian diplomat, entering the last year of his second five-year term as UN head, was reluctant to be the last emissary to visit Baghdad before war broke out.

A dedicated man of peace, he has often given the impression of being horrified by the prospect of war, especially a war ordained by the organisation he leads. Now his worst fear, that his visit will fail and he will be seen to have given his personal approval to hostilities, looks likely to come true.

"He has been propelled into a position that he did not particularly want to be in," one Western diplomat who has spoken to him in recent days said. "I think that is very honourable." What finally persuaded Señor Pérez de Cuéllar to attempt his "mission impos-

sible" was his overriding sense of duty to the United Nations.

Over the past week, ambassadors from many of the countries involved in the Gulf conflict, as well as many of those not involved, had told him that they expected him to make a final attempt to avert war.



Focus of attention: Pérez de Cuéllar hopes there is a chance for peace. "I will listen, and hope I will be listened to."

MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER

Hope of peace still flickers in the Arab world

THE Arab world was confounded by the unexpectedly lengthy negotiations between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Tariq Aziz, his Iraqi counterpart, in Geneva on Wednesday. Some were shocked while others were elated by the six-hour session, only to find it ending in recriminations.

In contrast, the public reactions of Arab leaders and their controlled press yesterday were muted and pious, holding out the hope that there was still time. President Saddam Hussein would probably not make up his mind until the eleventh hour next Tuesday, when the United Nations deadline ran out. In the meantime, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, might be able to salvage a solution this weekend in Baghdad.

An exception to the support for this fresh spurt of diplomatic activity came from the Kuwaiti government-in-exile in Saudi Arabia. "We're so glad that no concessions were made to Saddam," said a source. "We were really frightened in case the Americans had decided to force us to give away the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah to Iraq." His language reflected Kuwaiti fears of their vulnerability to pressure from Washington or even Riyadh. In Egypt,

there was no such compunction. A prominent columnist, Moussa Sabri, writing on the front page of the mass circulation daily, *al-Akhar*, wanted Saddam to be captured alive and tried "for crimes against the Iraqi and Arab people, crimes of murder, assassination".

The tightly controlled press in Baghdad did not directly refer to the failure of the Geneva talks. It settled for the usual bombast, quoting from Saddam's latest speech that the Americans would soon swim in their own blood, and that millions of Iraqis longed for the coming of "the mother of all battles".

In Syria, where the government has been less than outspoken recently about its proclaimed adherence to the aims of the anti-Saddam coalition, the press issued a warning to Saddam to think again before he plunged "the Arab nation" into a catastrophic war. The government newspaper, *Tishrin*, said that force would definitely be used to evict Saddam from Kuwait if he did not withdraw.

Syria has sent about 20,000 troops into Saudi Arabia and the renewed enthusiasm to be a faithful ally of the coalition will probably result in increased financial help from Riyadh.

The press in Algeria, the professional

mediator of the Arab world, aimed its comment at the West, saying that if there was a war, Iraqis were "undoubtedly willing to die" if the choice was between capitulation and death. Sayed Ahmed Ghozali, the Algerian foreign minister, said the Iraqis knew they were a Third World country and that they faced "the greatest military power". However, a new peace initiative was necessary, and it was suggested that the Americans would do well to agree to the linkage of the Kuwaiti conflict with the Palestinian issue, as demanded by Saddam.

Another, apparently eager mediator believed to have a greater chance of success is Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president. According to *Bild* newspaper in Germany, several Arab governments have asked him to intercede in the conflict. Dr Waldheim travelled to Iraq soon after the invasion of Kuwait and won the freedom of all Austrian hostages. A cartoonist's comment at the time showed an old Wehrmacht comrade of Dr Waldheim's welcoming him back and whispering into his ear: "Tell me, Kurt, is he really like the Führer?"

Hazhir Teimourian

BRITAIN

Hurd sets off on whirlwind tour to reassure allies

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, this morning begins a whirlwind tour of five Middle Eastern states to reassure Britain's Gulf allies that British support is undiminished.

He said before leaving yesterday that it was still possible that President Saddam Hussein would realise the strength of the coalition against him. This was now the time of "greatest peaceful pressure" on the Iraqi leader. But after the breakdown of the Geneva talks he now had little hope of a breakthrough. Much would depend on the message Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, took back to Baghdad.

Mr Hurd said the evacuation of all but one of the British diplomats from Baghdad was a prudent measure. "They have done their job for the time being, and it is safer for them, and therefore for us, that they should leave."

Harold Walker, the ambassador, and his four colleagues were due to arrive in Amman yesterday evening after a gruelling 700-mile journey overland by four-wheel-drive vehicles. Britain will not cut diplomatic relations, and is now casting around to see if its interests can be temporarily represented by another friendly power. But since almost all other Western nations are about to close their embassies, no other country is likely to be asked to represent Britain.

Iraq's ambassador to London, Azmi Shafiq al-Salhi, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to be told that he must further reduce the number of Iraqi diplomats here. But even if war breaks out, Britain will not expel those remaining. They will be one of the few remaining channels of communication with Baghdad, and their immunity will be jealously preserved.

There are still about 20 British citizens in Iraq — mostly people committed to remaining, come what may. Some are doctors and hospital staff who recently returned after the hostages were released.

Britain is keeping in close touch with its European Community partners on last-ditch efforts to arrange an EC meeting with Mr Aziz, despite his firm rejection of an invitation to meet the troops of Italian, Luxembourg and Dutch foreign ministers. Mr Hurd yesterday welcomed these efforts, together with the mission to Baghdad of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general. "He is, after all, the standard bearer of us all, and he can make clear that it is not America against Iraq, it is the United Nations, it is the hopes for collective security against the aggressor. That is what it is about, and the UN secretary-general is the right man to make that final point," he told BBC television.

Mr Hurd will begin his Gulf talks today with a meeting with Crown Prince Hamad al-Khalifa of Bahrain, and will go on for talks with the leaders of Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Jordan and Turkey. Despite the gloomy news from Geneva, there was no talk at yesterday's cabinet meeting of him cancelling the trip. Together with the prime minister's recent visit,

the government will have had first hand experience of the views of all the Arab allies in the region.

Whitehall is not worried about talk of Egypt switching sides should Israel be brought into any war. Mr Major found President Mubarak to be resolute in his support for the allies, and Mr Hurd said yesterday he did not expect Israel to initiate any attack.

The Arab allies would come under very strong pressure, however, if Israel retaliated for any Iraqi attack. Mr Hurd dismissed suggestions that the West should appeal to Jerusalem to stand back. "You cannot possibly appeal to a country which is being attacked not to defend itself," he said.

He also rejected as a "great mistake" any last-minute gestures by the West to give Saddam a face-saving way out. "We are not dealing with someone who is craving for a small gesture, we are dealing with a dictator who deliberately attacked and occupied one of his neighbours," he said.

Pakistan extremists warn West of jihad

Karachi — An Islamic fundamentalist backlash in Pakistan against America and other Western countries is widely feared as war clouds thicken over the Middle East (Zahid Hussain writes). Several powerful politico-religious organisations have joined forces to mobilise public opinion against the presence of Western forces in Saudi Arabia.

Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, is plastered with posters of President Saddam Hussein. They describe him as a "great hero of Islam who has challenged American and Zionist forces". The religious leaders have called for a jihad against the American forces. To counter any terrorist action, the government has strengthened security measures around Western diplomatic missions.

Volunteer appeal

Volunteers are being sought in Aldershot, Hampshire, to help families of the hundreds of casualties who could be brought back to the town during a war. The Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association is seeking people to help with transport and accommodation for relatives visiting injured servicemen who would be treated at a hospital there.

Carrier delayed

High winds delayed the departure from Portsmouth yesterday of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, which is possibly on her way to the Gulf. The ship's crew of 1,000 was waving goodbye to loved ones when a force nine gale blew up. She eventually sailed two hours late as the winds began to die down, heading for Gibraltar and exercises with allied navies.

No-strike order

Rome — Carlo Bernini, the Italian transport minister, citing the tense situation in the Gulf, has ordered air traffic controllers not to obey a strike call which would have paralysed domestic and international flights yesterday. He temporarily suspended their right to strike after one big union ordered a series of stoppages over two days. (Reuters)

Portugal delay

Lisbon — Portugal has delayed the privatisation of the remaining 51 per cent of the insurance company Aliança Seguradora SA because of uncertainty over the Gulf. Finance ministry sources said. They said the new date for the issue on the Oporto stock market would only be set when the situation in the Gulf became clearer. (Reuters)

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French desire to link Palestine issue shows up faultline in EC

From GEORGE BROCK
IN GENEVA

THERE is no lack of intermediaries, and most particularly of European politicians, ready to fly anywhere at short notice to chase any wisp of peace in the Gulf. The shortage is of common ground between the two sides.

Wednesday's icy six-hour stand-off saw a flurry of comings and goings outside the Baker-Aziz meeting. The arrival of Sayeed Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister, and other third parties encouraged those watching the talks to hope that America and Iraq had broken new ground. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

In delivering his bleak account of the confrontation, Tariq Aziz dealt a severe blow to hopes of European mediation. That will not stop further shuttling for

peace by European envoys, as well as by UN and Arab linkmen. But Mr Aziz's categorical put-downs leave practically no room at all for further manoeuvre. There was little enough to begin with.

The pivot of all the recent "peace plans" has been the offer of a peace conference on Palestine in exchange for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. This swap is the rogue element among the ideas which hold together the 28-nation coalition in the Gulf, and particularly in the relationship between France and the United States. The conference-for-withdrawal proposal is also the faultline within the European Community. A majority group, led by Britain and The Netherlands, opposes any linkage; a French-led minority advocates exploring the possibilities.

At his press conference, Mr Aziz was

specifically asked if he had offered to leave Kuwait in return for a regional conference. If there were ever an opportunity to wind up the tensions within the Western-Arab alliance, that question was surely his moment. He passed up the chance. "I did not put it that way," he said flatly, before returning to the now-traditional Iraqi formula requiring the establishment of "international legality" in the region.

His entire discourse was coloured by a defiant and contemptuous distinction between America and Europe on one side, and the Arabs on the other. No, he said, he did not have plans to meet European intermediaries, but he might meet some fellow Arab politicians who happened to be in Geneva. Asked why he had declined the invitation to meet the EC's diplomatic "troika" this week,

he went back in detail over how "humiliated" Iraq had been by the cancellation of one previous community invitation, implying that the offer had been withdrawn under American pressure. His message to European governments was simple: there are only two sides - make your choice.

European initiatives, either national or by the Twelve, will doubtless go on until the deadline. Their likely failure will be used by Euro-enthusiasts to argue that the machinery to co-ordinate EC foreign policy should be beefed up, and by Euro-sceptics to argue that a common foreign policy never made sense anyway. While intervention in Gulf mediation always looked over-ambitious for the community, the Gulf episode tells us more about national politics than collective policy-making.

France has, not for the first time, been the loudest voice urging a European negotiation distinct from American diplomacy. In practice, this means French negotiation: the French foreign ministry is privately dismissive about the Luxembourg-led moves as being too little too late.

Despite mutually mistrustful noises by spokesmen of both governments, the Franco-American link has proved stronger than might appear.

President Mitterrand feels strongly about the destruction of Kuwaiti sovereignty but he has taken large political risks in deploying French forces in the Gulf. His insistent efforts to keep peace feelers extended, when the chances of success are so slim, stem from three problems which other European governments do not share. French public

opinion is sceptical about going to war in the Gulf. Second, French life and politics contain an exceptionally large constituency drawn from the Arab world. Last, and most importantly, a segment of the Socialist party is fiercely opposed to fighting Iraq.

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the defence minister, has been ambiguous about the Gulf deployment. This week he was supporting the president. Last week the party issued a frontal attack on Mitterrand's stand over the Gulf.

Mr Bush and Mr Baker, while uneasy about the danger of being outflanked by French diplomacy, have been tolerant of Mitterrand's difficulties. This tactic seems to have paid off. The Franco-American link has been cemented by President Saddam Hussein's lack of interest in compromise.

UNITED STATES

Promise of pull-out not enough to halt attack, Nato is told

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IN A sombre briefing to Nato allies, the United States yesterday insisted that an Iraqi promise to withdraw from Kuwait would not be enough to stop an attack unless there were immediate signs of troops leaving the emirate.

At a special meeting in Brussels, Raymond Seitz, the US assistant secretary of state, also told ambassadors that President Bush had no intention of leaving large American forces in the region once the confrontation with Iraq was over. Mr Seitz, who was at the failed Geneva talks, said the Iraqis had been given a guarantee that they would not be attacked if they withdrew

from Kuwait. According to Nato sources, James Baker, the Secretary of State, made it clear to Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, that the UN Security Council deadline of January 15 was "immutable".

Mr Baker also emphasised the "serious consequences of Iraq's failure to comply with UN resolutions", according to one American official at Nato headquarters. The pledge to remove most of the American forces was linked by the US to a period when "the threat had receded". It was not immediately clear whether the "threat" referred only to the occupation of Kuwait, or more generally to Iraq's mili-

Union Jack lowered as hope ebbs away

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

HOPES were flagging and the embassy flags were coming down as the fear and loathing factor in Baghdad increased tenfold yesterday after the failure of the Geneva talks.

With the lowering of the Union Jack and the dawn withdrawal of all but one of the British staff from the embassy, plus the intended departure of most other Western embassies' staffs in the next few days, there was a distinct feeling that diplomacy was on its last legs in this part of the Middle East.

The imminent visit of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, means that not quite all hope has gone; nevertheless, the feeling of hopelessness and sadness is evident.

"We are surely afraid", Bana Al-Jishi, aged 19, a Baghdad university student of religion, said. "I never thought it would happen, but now the talks have failed and I think a war could happen soon. We are all afraid and think about leaving Baghdad."

The departure of the British ambassador, Harold Walker, and his four remaining consular officials by Land-Rover convoy yesterday morning was a sad sight. "I am not terribly quotable today, I am afraid," the ambassador told reporters soberly on his way through the wrought-iron gates of the embassy for the last time.

Then he left in convoy with four other embassy vehicles



Segar: staying on to help arrested Briton

tary power in the region.

"The clear implication is that some US forces will remain in the area when all of this is over," one Nato diplomat said.

In The Hague yesterday, a Dutch defence ministry spokesman said that Britain had asked The Netherlands and other members of the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) to send minesweepers and mine-hunters to the Gulf. The official declined to say whether the vessels would be provided. Iraq is believed to have mined areas near the Kuwaiti coast to impede amphibious assault.

A drifting mine, the first discovered in the central Gulf since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, was destroyed off Bahrain on Tuesday night. Eight other mines have been found and destroyed in Saudi Arabia's northern oilfields.

Britain, which has five minehunters in the Gulf, has been urging fellow members of the WEU, which includes Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Belgium, to increase their contribution to the forces against Iraq.

● PEKING: Iraq was advised by Peking yesterday to be "realistic" and avert a war by withdrawing its troops immediately from Kuwait (Catherine Sampson writes).

Li Zhaoxing, the foreign ministry spokesman, described the situation in the Gulf as "increasingly tense", and said: "We once again urge Iraq to respond to appeals from the international community by unconditionally withdrawing its troops from Kuwait immediately." China was the only permanent member of the UN Security Council to abstain from voting on the resolution setting the deadline of January 15. An old friend of Iraq, Peking has condemned its invasion of Kuwait and voted in favour of the earlier UN resolutions, but has consistently called for efforts to avoid a war.

Mr Li urged the international community to find a peaceful solution and declined to say what action China would take in the event of war. Diplomats believe, however, that Peking, traditionally an outspoken opponent of American aggression, would find itself unable to support a war even with words.

Nuclear option, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Democrats attack Bush in war debate

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

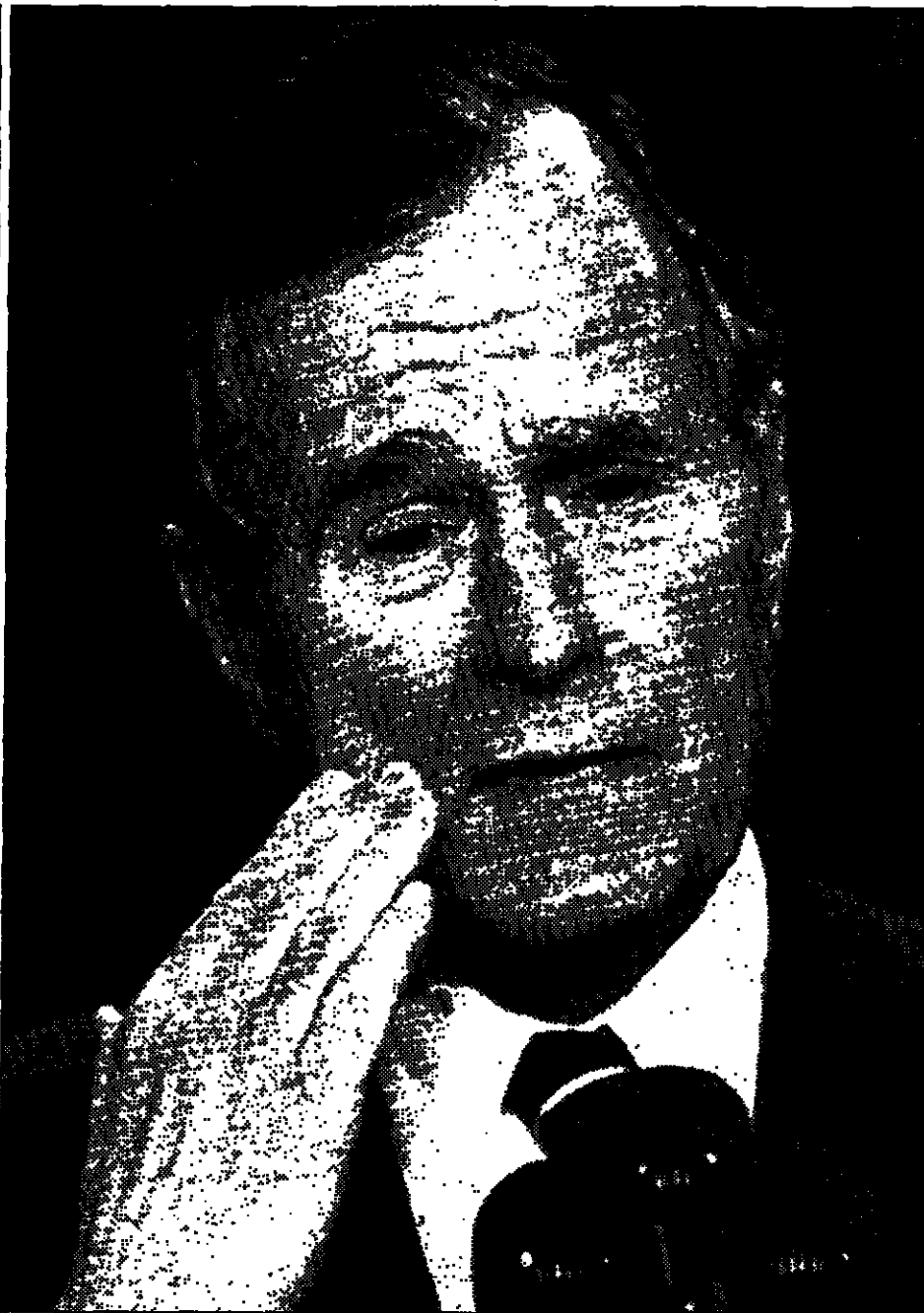
GEORGE Mitchell, the Democratic leader of the Senate, yesterday opened a momentous congressional debate on whether to authorise force against Iraq from Tuesday with a strong attack on President Bush's abandonment of his reliance on sanctions in favour of the military option.

Sanctions were biting, he insisted, quoting a string of administration officials who had testified as much in the early days of the confrontation. But inexplicably, on November 8, Mr Bush had ordered a doubling of American forces in the Gulf. "In effect the president overnight, without any consultation and any public debate, changed American policy," he said.

In doing so the president had upset the balance between patience and firmness, between American interests and the risk involved in defending them. War risked thousands of predominantly American deaths, economic disruption, the involvement of Israel, Middle East instability, protracted Arab enmity towards the United States and a return to isolationism at home. "The grave decision for war is being

made prematurely," Mr Mitchell said. "If we go to war now, no one will ever know if sanctions would have worked if given a full and fair chance."

The debate started as the administration intensified preparations for a Gulf war that most Americans now consider almost inevitable, and despite the appeals of Mr Mitchell and other leading Democrats Mr Bush was expected to win the authorisation for using force that he



Taking the strain: President Bush facing reporters during his White House press conference after the American-Iraqi talks in Geneva had broken down

FRANCE

Paris to try other avenues

From PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

AS A new opinion poll indicated that the French public is more opposed than ever to a Gulf war, there were unmistakable indications yesterday that Paris holds out little hope of a successful EC initiative.

With the chief spokesman for the French foreign ministry publicly expressing doubts about the prospect of a "positive conclusion" to the EC's efforts Paris has once again signalled its determination to explore other avenues. Speculation about a possible joint initiative by France and Algeria was strengthened by the news that their foreign ministers were expected to meet in Paris last night.

GERMANY

Bonn urges a mediation role

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY hopes and believes a Gulf war can be avoided if the European Community acts as an honest broker to convince President Saddam Hussein that a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, including the Palestinian problem, can be reached once Iraqi troops leave Kuwait.

With Bonn openly desperate to prevent a war, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, has been collaborating closely with Roland Dumas, his French opposite number, to try to put together a joint EC position that does not contradict United Nations resolutions on the Gulf but does show the way for a peaceful Iraqi withdrawal.

In a radio interview yesterday, Herr Genscher said he hoped that proposals would be ready to put to Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, in Algiers before the UN deadline for withdrawal on Tuesday. "This shows that the EC is ready to do everything imaginable to make things acceptable for the other side," he said. "The community had to shoulder its responsibilities. In such a critical situation, you have to give a chance to politics and diplomacy in order to protect peace."

Against the background of calls by peace groups for anti-war demonstrations at the weekend in 75 cities and towns, leaders across the political spectrum called yesterday for every effort to continue to preserve peace.

President von Weizsäcker, at his new year's meeting with the Bonn diplomatic corps, said he hoped war could be avoided. He said a conflict would particularly harm the Third World, and he called for a strengthening of the UN.

The imminent threat of a war has finally penetrated German apathy about the Gulf. An Infas poll this week indicated it has at last overtaken German affairs in importance for most people, with 53 per cent seeing it as the greatest problem facing them. There was cross-party support among the 1,000 people polled for the American position, although only 15 per cent felt that Germany should offer more practical help.

Germany, unable under the generally understood terms of the constitution to send troops outside Nato's area, has so far only deployed minesweepers in the eastern Mediterranean and Alpha jet trainers in Turkey to help the military effort. With the federal budget severely overstretched by unification expenses, there is no ready cash available to pay much more than the DM3.3 billion (£1.1 billion) offered towards the cost of Gulf operations. That underlines the quandary facing Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, as he tries to put together a coherent Gulf policy. While there is firm support for the American position that Iraq must leave Kuwait, there is little support for doing much to help, and almost no support for a war.

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Baker consults Saudis on timing

From REUTER IN RIYADH

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, began discussions with Washington's frontline allies yesterday on the timing of a decision to go to war to drive the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Meanwhile, a senior official said that President Saddam Hussein may have decided to seek the death of a martyr.

Mr Baker flew to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd and leading officials. The official, briefing report-

ers on the plane, said that the Secretary of State would discover the views of the Saudis and the other frontline allies on the timing of any political decision to attack.

"It's important to be able to communicate to the president (Bush) the views of the coalition partners with respect to that. There are questions (of) what happens with respect to the commitment of forces under certain conditions, what happens with respect to

responsibility sharing," he added. The official said he could still not rule out a last-minute decision by Saddam to pull his troops out of Kuwait.

"It's always been our view that if Iraq is going to comply with the UN resolution, given the history of Saddam Hussein, they will do so at the last minute," said the official. On the other hand, "he (Saddam) may decide to stand and try to become a martyr. He might very well," the official said.

US air supremacy 'could bring victory within two weeks'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

AMERICAN-led forces in the Gulf could defeat Iraq within two weeks because of the absolute aerial supremacy of US forces, says a leading Israeli military commentator.

Writing in the newspaper *Ha'aretz*, Zeev Schiff said yesterday that, while the Iraqis had been extending their fortifications in Kuwait, the Americans had concentrated an air force that outnumbered the Iraqi air force three-to-one. That would enable America to strike a severe blow and cripple the Iraqi military infrastructure.

His assessment came as the Israeli and Jordanian armies faced one another on high alert across a no man's land on either side of River Jordan.

The Israelis issue daily warnings that any Iraqi troop movement into Jordan will be seen by Israel as the crossing of a "red line", triggering an Israeli response. The Jordanians say they fear a deliberate Israeli incursion and have said that any such move could bring Syria into the conflict on the side of Jordan.

However, Israel thinks that recent Jordanian deployments

along the frontier are defensive rather than offensive.

In his assessment of American and Iraqi strength, Mr Schiff said the allied air force had about 1,500 advanced fighters, including aircraft carriers as well as fighters deployed in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the Gulf states.

By contrast, Iraq would be able to muster only 550 fighter aircraft, some of which lack spare parts, the Israelis believe. The quality of allied aircraft would enable America to operate day and night, paralyzing Iraqi air force systems with electronic warfare.

Mr Schiff said that allied forces did not possess the same clear advantage on land as they did in the air. The Israeli assessment was that allied forces, including Egypt and Syria, had 3,500 tanks ranged against 4,000 Iraqi tanks.

"It is very doubtful whether the Syrians will participate in war," Mr Schiff wrote. "But even without the Syrian divisions, the allied forces have sufficient tank and helicopter strength to influence the battlefield."

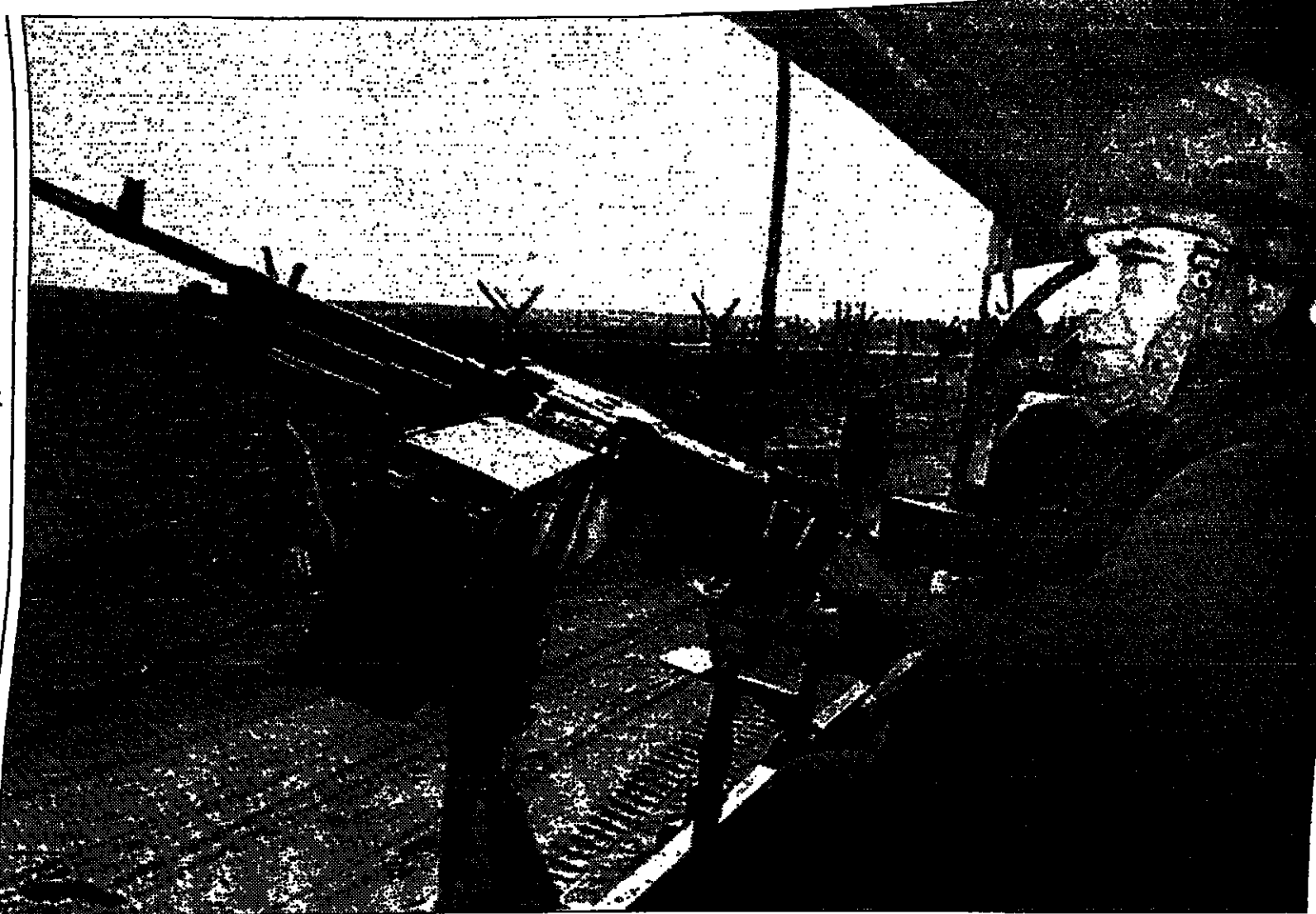
He added that the Iraqis, according to Israeli intelligence, had little in the way of air defences in Kuwait. Of the 40 Iraqi divisions in Kuwait, 30 were "relatively low-level infantry divisions with limited mobility". Only ten Iraqi divisions were partly armoured or mechanised.

America and its allies, therefore, could defeat President Saddam Hussein within weeks if not days.

According to Western intelligence, meanwhile, Jordanian army commanders have moved 80,000 troops closer to the frontier with Israel. Defences in the passes leading up from the Jordan valley to the plateau on which Amman lies have been strengthened, and tanks and artillery have been deployed.

In Jerusalem, Benjamin Netanyahu, the deputy foreign minister, said that Israel had conveyed to King Hussein that Israel's intentions were purely defensive. "We hope Jordan does not fall into the trap of becoming an active appendage of Saddam Hussein," he said.

Leading article, page 11



The edge of war: an Israeli soldier armed with a Belgian-made machinegun, patrolling the tense border with Jordan in a command car yesterday. Frontier nervousness, already high after the Temple Mount killings in October, has increased

with the failure of the Geneva talks on Wednesday, but Israeli and Jordanian officers hold frequent low-level meetings to iron out misunderstandings and avoid a fatal miscalculation, according to a captain at the frontier. When asked what

would happen if war started, the captain stared at the arid desert landscape, littered with abandoned monasteries, barbed wire and unexploded mines — the debris of previous Middle East conflicts. "We have very great respect for the

Jordanian army," he said. "It is small but very well trained." The tradition of the Arab Legion and Ghabb Pasha was still strong. "We do not look down on them at all. We fought them in 1948 and again in 1967."

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HALIFAX

Wall Street cuts the wisecracks

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

ANXIETY and resignation swept America yesterday as the prospect of imminent war hit home. In New York, strangers swapped views in office lifts, in churches in Harlem, they lit candles for the many parishioners from the poor black district serving in the Gulf.

In the granite trenches of Wall Street there were none of the usual wisecracks that traders share during crises. Instead, like much of the nation, they kept a nervous eye on Cable News Network, the television station that has

taken on the role of electronic town crier.

"No one's joking about this one," said Donald Dinsmore, a stock trader. "You don't know if the guy you're telling the joke to has a kid over in Saudi Arabia."

Spot polls and television coverage showed a country now resigned to going to war. Nine out of ten citizens told *USA Today*, on Wednesday night that they expected immediate hostilities.

"Suddenly, I got a feeling of hopelessness," said Larry Winters, a former marine from Michigan who served in Vietnam. His comment seemed to speak for the country after the collapse of the Geneva talks.

While near unanimous about the inevitability of war, Americans remained as divided as ever over the wisdom of the president's course. Yesterday's polls showed that just over 50 per cent wanted the president to attack Iraq. Enthusiasts for a rapid and massive assault on Baghdad dominated the air on phone-in television and radio shows.

"We gotta go in fast and get that guy, kick his ass and stop messing around," said one typical Long Island caller.

The collapse of the Geneva talks seemed to have tipped the balance in favour of action in the minds of many citizens. But interviews also echoed a widespread belief that Mr Bush was leading the country to a war about the price of oil. Reports yesterday that a Philadelphia company is rushing to provide the Pentagon with thousands of bodybags strengthened the sense of alarm.

Most editorials cautiously supported the White House yesterday but, while Congress appeared disposed to give the president a free hand, *The New York Times* urged the administration to observe a "larger patriotism" and resist the rush to war.

Americans advised to leave

FROM PENNY GIBBINS IN TUNIS

AMERICAN embassies in North Africa said yesterday that Washington has told most non-essential embassy staff and their families to leave after the failure of the Geneva talks.

Embassy officials also said that all Peace Corps volunteers in the region were being sent to France.

Diplomatic sources say lists naming who should go and who should stay have long been drawn up. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of all Americans living in the region will be leaving.

Employees in American companies were told to leave earlier in the week according to one American, who said that some had been told to stay away for at least 45 days.

The Foreign Office so far has said only that British citizens should stay indoors from January 15. Popular feeling in the region is pro-Iraq. One American diplomat said: "We are being prudent".

Fear that feeds the war within

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

BEFORE anyone goes into battle, there's an internal war that must be waged, a fight to control the fear that churns inside. It is an age-old personal conflict shared by jet pilots, infantry, tank crewmen in their metal shells and sailors on their warships.

The same question is asked by privates in their foxholes and by generals in the war rooms: How will I perform in combat? "Combat is so violent that you can't describe it. You can only talk around the periphery. They've got to go through the black hole and experience it themselves." Colonel Jerry Laws, commander of the American Army's 75th Artillery Brigade, said.

"The fear of the unknown is the biggest factor," said Colonel Laws, a 25-year army veteran who flew helicopters in Vietnam. "Before the fight, you're going to be afraid. During the fight, you get angry and the adrenalin starts flowing. Then after, you're so

afraid your knees are knocking so bad you can't hear anybody talking to you. That's all right if soldiers understand that," he said.

The American troops in Saudi Arabia have only a smattering of combat veterans to reassure the inexperienced troops they have been training, and soldiers who have never seen combat have sought out the old hands for counsel. "You're supposed to be scared to death. That's the way it works," said Captain Brent Smith, aged 33, commander of a marine infantry company. "You get that adrenalin in your system and you can do just about anything."

Those with war experience tell about how things seem to unfold in slow motion. "The world sort of stands still. The closer the bullets come the longer they seem to be there," said Lieutenant-Colonel John Marshall, a fighter squadron commander.

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Yard tightens security in alert for terror acts

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE in Britain are to increase protection for ambassadors and to intensify surveillance of pro-Saddam Iraqis because of fears that there will be a wave of terrorist strikes if war breaks out.

A wide range of military and civilian targets are considered at risk, though security experts are divided about the level of danger and the thrust of any attack. Baghdad may regard Britain as an enemy second only to the US.

Because most Iraqis in Britain are opposed to the Baghdad regime, it is unlikely that the Home Office will order any mass internment. Further deportations of Iraqis considered "undesirable" remain a distinct possibility.

The Home Office, which has expelled 104 Iraqis since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, estimates that there are 6,000 Iraqis in Britain, including about 2,000 students. Iraqi dissidents living here, however, claim the community numbers at least 50,000.

Anti-terrorist officers in London have doubled the number of routine visits they

make to dissident Iraqi bookshops and centres, while surveillance of pro-Saddam sympathisers has been increased sharply.

Armed members of Scotland Yard's royal and diplomatic branch are increasing security at diplomatic premises and the Special Branch is to offer bodyguards for ambassadors representing countries with military commitments against Iraq. Security at British airports is also likely to be tightened.

Until now the only direct involvement Iraq has had in terrorism in Britain is against Iraqis who have sought refuge here. In the past 15 years at least three Iraqi dissidents have been murdered, notably General Abdul Razzak Naif, who was shot dead outside the Intercontinental Hotel in London in 1978.

Iraqi dissidents said yesterday that the Makhbarat, the Iraqi secret police, had an extensive network of agents in Britain, many posing as students, diplomatic officials or businessmen. Laila Kubba, aged 36, an anti-Saddam activist, said: "The key threat is not from students supporting the ruling Baath party, but from the sleeper."

Abdul Wahhab al-Hakim, another dissident, has good reason to fear the Iraqi dictator. Two years ago he narrowly escaped death when two hitmen murdered his uncle, a prominent Shia Muslim opponent of Saddam, in the foyer of a Sudanese hotel.

He said: "After shooting him they turned on me but, by great good fortune, a bullet heading for my chest ricocheted off a pen in my top pocket. Another bullet smashed one of my knee-caps. It wasn't difficult knowing who was responsible."

Mr al-Hakim, who, like so many Iraqis now permanently resident here, first came to Britain as a student, believes that the police and security forces should treat with great seriousness reports that Britain might be singled out as a terrorist target.

Paul Wilkinson, director of the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism, said last night that Iraqi-funded terror groups started infiltrating Western Europe immediately after the invasion of Kuwait.

"We do have evidence that the dangerous groups really experienced in terrorism who receive substantial sponsorship in terms of money, training and intelligence from Saddam, are in place ready to launch attacks when he gives the word," he said.



Al-Hakim: "Ricocheting bullet saved my life"

Doctors prepare for mustard gas victims

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH doctors have been warned by the health department to expect severely injured casualties of Iraqi chemical weapons, including nerve agents and mustard gas.

Advice on how to treat survivors of such attacks who are flown back to Britain has been circulated to regional medical officers by the health department. The advice makes it clear that some deaths from the weapons are inevitable and that many of those who are repatriated will need weeks of intensive care.

Nerve agents attack parts of the central nervous system and kill by paralysing the respiratory muscles, but can be countered by antidotes such as the drug atropine. Some casualties may have long-term heart damage and psychiatric symptoms.

Mustard gas, or sulphur mustard, causes severe blistering of the skin and damage to the eyes and throat. If inhaled, it can cause fatal damage to

the bone marrow or lungs. The document says: "There are no proven means of reversing the effects of sulphur mustard. Recovery from the effects... is slow and patients may need hospital care for two months or so."

Two specialists at University College Hospital, London, say in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* today that the defence ministry has not disclosed the type of chemical agents that might be used in a Gulf war.

Angus McGrouther, Britain's only professor of plastic surgery, and his colleague, Dr Nicholas Parkhouse, say: "The nature of the expected chemical wounds is veiled in secrecy. This information has not been circulated among plastic and burns surgeons."

"Much more precise information needs to be made available on the potential chemical agents and how to treat them... and on the risks of biological weapons."

Tea and sympathy from the Sally Ann

By TEOLO COLLEY

THE Salvation Army is sending two canteen vehicles to the Gulf to offer "tea and sympathy" to the Desert Rats. A four-man team has volunteered to go to Saudi Arabia to work in the vehicles, which are equipped with kettles, urns and fridges.

The role is a traditional one for the Salvation Army in time of conflict. The men from the "Sally Ann" were popular with the Desert Rats in north Africa during the second world war. The latest mission already has defence ministry clearance.

Major George Whittingham, who is co-ordinating the project, said: "The lads in the forces have always seen us as a sympathetic ear, someone to open up to if they need to."

After taking the advice of the army about the tough desert terrain, the organisation decided that one of the vehicles it sent out would be a converted four-wheel-drive Range-Rover, bought



Home comforts: the team from the Salvation Army which will soon be on its way to the Gulf to offer a cup of tea and a sympathetic ear to the troops

by the Salvation Army in Scotland after the Lockerbie air crash. Mr Whittingham said: "We are working under military supervision, but if we can follow the troops in the desert we will." The Range-Rover and a canteen van, a converted Renault which will be used

in one of the army port areas on the Gulf coast, are to be shipped to Saudi Arabia immediately. The team, of Major Bob Halliday, from Hendon, north London, Major Alan Austin, from Penge, south London, Capt Stan Mosely, from Worcester, and Capt Alan

Hickman, who runs a Salvation Army centre for British troops in Germany, will fly out with the RAF in about ten days' time.

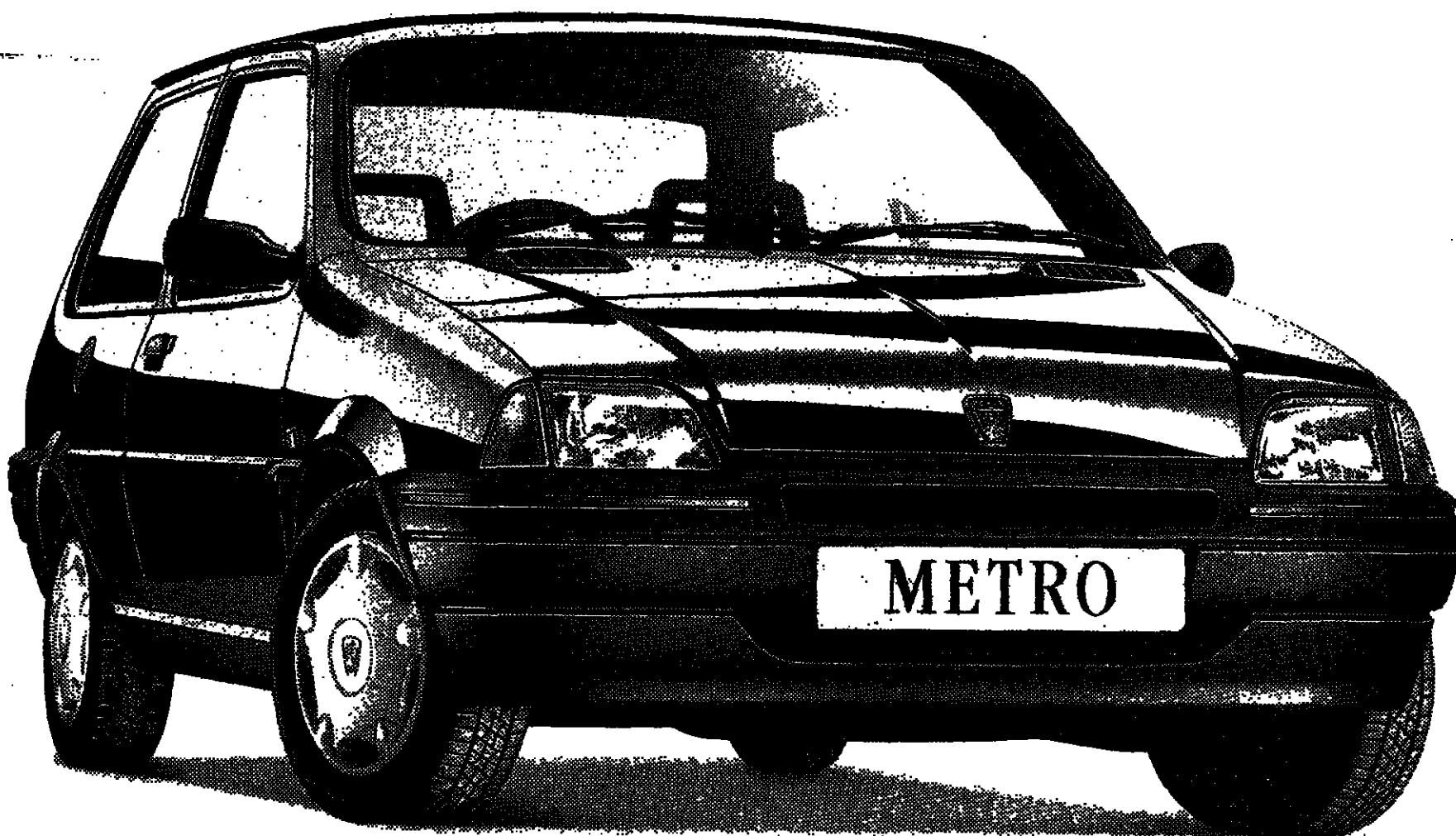
Mr Whittingham, from Hemsworth, West Yorkshire, who will accompany the men initially, said they had followed closely the

failed peace talks in Geneva. "When they extended them for six hours I felt deep within me that some peaceful solution had been found," he said. Mr Mosely, aged 51, who has three children, said that the team's families were apprehensive about the trip.

"They are hoping nothing drastic happens, but if it should we will trust in the Lord," he said. "My wife said it was all right trusting in the Lord when you are sat in front of the television. It's a different matter when you are out in the desert with a war looming."

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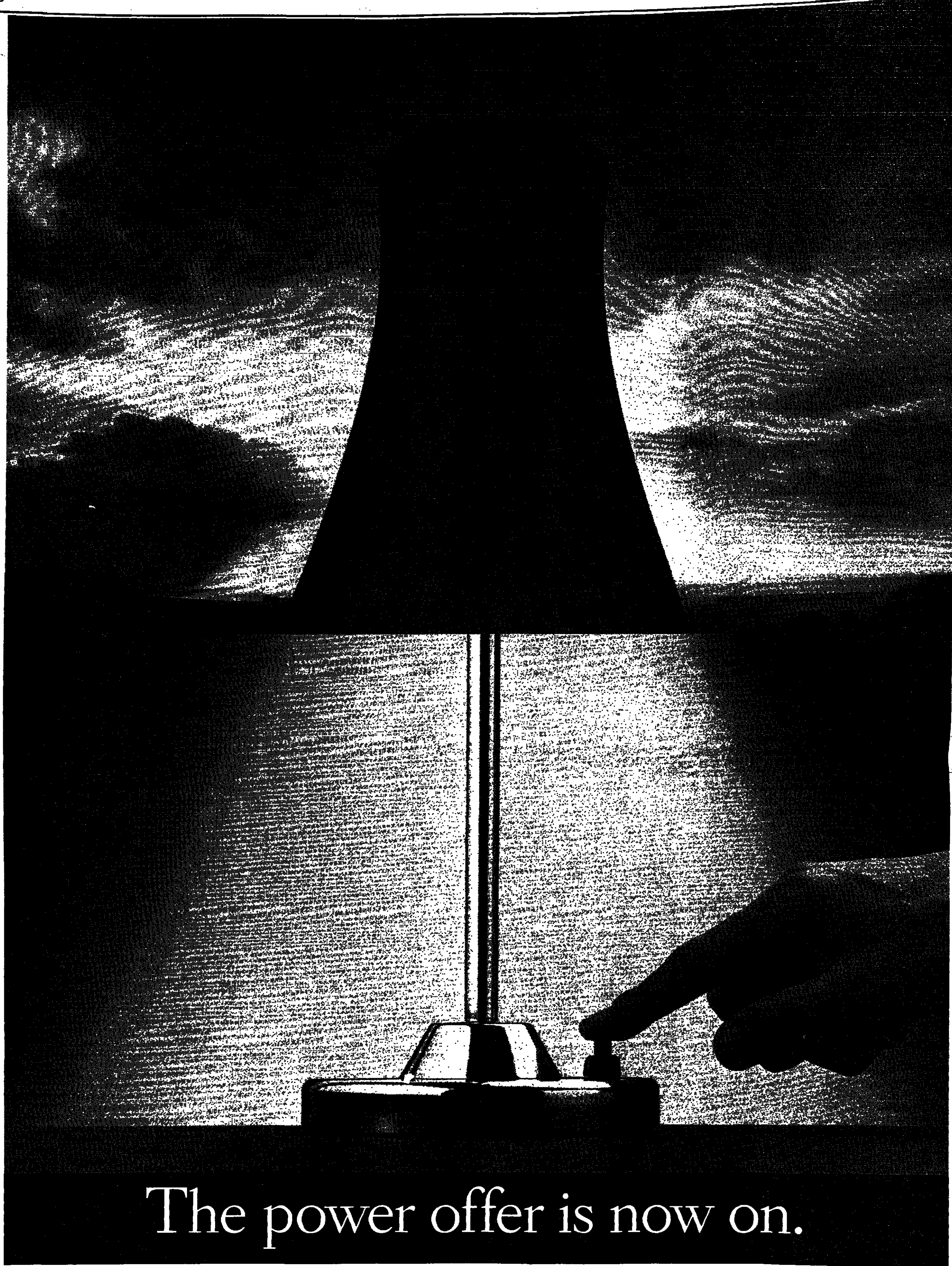
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Nurse killed baby in oxygen tube blunder, court told

A BABY girl blew up like a balloon and died within seconds when a nurse wrongly connected her arm to an oxygen cylinder, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Jemma Fenton, aged 11 months, became distorted, went blue in the face, and began frothing at the mouth as a result of "the dreadful mistake," David Paget, for the prosecution, said.

He said nurse Florence McKenley's carelessness could only be described as "gross negligence or recklessness" and made her criminally responsible for the baby's death.

"The consequences were appalling because oxygen was supplied straight into the baby's bloodstream and the baby was killed as a result." The only "crumb of comfort"



McKenley: "anxious call for assistance"

was that baby Jemma died within three to six seconds of the oxygen being wrongly connected. Mrs McKenley, aged 48, of Navestock Crescent, Woodford, Essex, pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of

the baby girl who died at Old Church Hospital, Romford, last February 14.

The court heard that Mrs McKenley, who qualified in 1971, had at the time of the incident a grading which allowed her to work unsupervised.

Baby Jemma was brought in for observation suffering from breathing problems. An intravenous drip was attached to the baby's arm providing her with two fluids. Oxygen was being supplied to the baby through a tube attached to her nose. The tube for the fluids is clear. The tube for the oxygen is a pale green which could, at a glance, appear to be clear, Mr Paget said.

Another nurse, Stephanie Jordan, kept hourly observation on the baby until 2am. The baby's condition had improved and she appeared to be sleeping well. At 3am and 4am readings were taken of the amount of fluid she was receiving and so on, Mr Paget said.

At between 4.15 and 4.30 am Mrs McKenley heard the baby crying and went to give her some drugs to calm her down. Twenty minutes later an auxiliary nurse, Carol Davis, heard Mrs McKenley "anxiously and urgently" calling for assistance.

Mr Paget said: "Nurse Davis noticed that Jemma was blue in the face, bloated, and had stopped breathing." It was then that a call to the emergency team was made. The team failed to notice that the child was being pumped up with oxygen, Ms Jordan said. It was only after the baby had died and the equipment was being cleared away that it was realised that a mistake had been made.

Mrs McKenley claimed that another nurse had been attending to the baby shortly before. She said she had heard the child screaming and had gone in to find her unattended, bloated and having difficulty in breathing. Mr Paget said the other nurses were adamant that at no time did they touch the tubing. "The last person to be attending to Jemma before the incident happened must have been the defendant."

Mr Paget said that Mrs McKenley must have disconnected the intravenous drip, perhaps to take the baby out of the cot and comfort her. "She must have mistakenly connected the intravenous drip to the oxygen." The court heard that Mrs McKenley told the police: "I did not touch the intravenous lines or oxygen."

The hearing continues today.



Catching the bus: a resident of South Wigston paddling his own canoe after the Soar broke its backs near the Leicester suburb yesterday

Thatcher confidante to retire at election

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR Peter Morrison, one of Margaret Thatcher's closest confidantes, yesterday became the 38th Tory MP for his constituency to announce his retirement at the next general election.

Although Sir Peter served as a minister in three departments and as deputy chairman of the party, he will be best remembered as a messenger and adviser to Mrs Thatcher who played a key role in the weeks before her downfall.

The MP for the City of Chester, who is 46, unmarried and won a majority of 4,855 at the last election, told his constituency association yesterday: "Over Christmas I have taken stock as to the future and I have consulted my family."

"I have decided that I wish to move on and to make way for a successor. After having had the challenge of running affairs as a minister I now wish to use that experience in the private sector."

Sir Peter's appointment in 1989 as Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary, acting as a link between the former prime minister and the Tory back benches, came as a surprise at Westminster. In the post-mortems that followed her demise, he was blamed by some Conservatives for failing to warn her about the extent of the unrest on the party back benches.

It fell to the Chester MP to tell the former prime minister in Paris the result of the first leadership ballot in November. He was knighted in Mrs Thatcher's resignation list.

Sir Charles, his older brother by 12 years and MP for Devizes, is also standing down at the next election. Their father Lord Margdale was chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee.

Sir Peter has described his pet hates as *Guardian* readers, scrupulous and terrorists. A special general meeting of the Cheltenham Conservative Association looks certain to be held next month to re-examine the selection of John Taylor, the black barrister, as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate. A petition gathered by his opponents will be handed to local party leaders on Monday.

□ Mrs Thatcher received an award from the *Good Retirement Guide* yesterday for proving that retirement need not mean an end to an active life.

Crew saved as ship sinks

By CRAIG SETON

EIGHT crewmen were lifted to safety from a life-raft by an RAF helicopter that reached them just as their gas rig safety ship sank in heavy seas 50 miles northeast of Norfolk yesterday.

Their ship, the 75ft St Martin, began taking water in the Viking gas field and the Yarmouth coastguard was alerted. The crew later sent out a mayday that their ship was sinking.

A Wessex rescue helicopter from RAF Coltishall reached the crewmen as they clambered into a life-raft battered by 10-15ft waves. As they were winched aboard, the St Martin

began to sink. The men were flown to hospital in Great Yarmouth and are not thought to be injured.

Chris Palgrave, the winch operator, said that two helicopters from gas rigs had hovered above the sinking ship. Although they had no winch-gear, they marked the spot for the RAF rescue helicopter. "The ship sank three or four minutes after we got the last man aboard."

A flood alert was issued for the whole of the Severn yesterday as the river overflowed under heavy rain, leaving hundreds of acres of farmland under water between Shrewsbury in Shropshire and Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

The National Rivers Authority said that more rain was expected to make the Severn continue rising today. The river rose 13ft 5in above normal at Upton upon Severn, where residents were warned of flooding.

Farmland was also flooded when the Avon burst its banks near Evesham, Hereford & Worcester, and the Tems flooded near Worcester. In the east Midlands, the Soar broke its banks downstream of Leicester, flooding farmland.

Warmest year, page 18

Police chief makes new complaint

By RONALD FAUX

ALISON Halford, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, has lodged a second complaint against Merseyside police officers. It was disclosed yesterday at a private meeting of Merseyside Police Authority.

A statement read by David Henshaw, clerk to the authority, said that a second letter had been received from Miss Halford seeking to make a second complaint, alleging that officers had disclosed her holiday address in Spain.

The matters will be the subject of further reports to the senior officers' discipline committee which suspended Miss Halford, aged 50, on full pay on December 12. Clarification would be sought from Miss Halford and her solicitors.

Because of her commitment to an industrial tribunal hearing Miss Halford was granted more time to answer disciplinary allegations. At the tribunal, which resumes in private today, Miss Halford is accusing the home secretary, her chief constable, Northamptonshire Police Authority and the North West Inspector of Constabulary of sex discrimination after she was turned down for promotion nine times.

No-fault awards sought by BMA

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association yesterday called for a £100 million no-fault compensation scheme for victims of medical accidents to ensure quicker and fairer settlements. Under the scheme, aimed at avoiding lengthy and expensive court cases, capital sums would be paid to claimants based on the injured person's needs, irrespective of blame. Most claimants would be eligible for up to £25,000 to compensate them for pain and suffering and temporary absence from work.

Those with permanent disabling injuries, such as brain-damaged children, would be awarded a capital sum large enough to generate £10,000 annually for the rest of their lives. The sums would be decided out of court by a compensation board of about ten members, including medical, legal and lay representatives.

They would assume that victims would have access to support from the national health service and social services. The plan would not cover diagnostic mistakes "which could not have been avoided by hindsight", or complications which could not have been avoided, however competently the procedure was carried out.

It also excludes infections "arising under circumstances which made them difficult to avoid", and drug complications such as in the Open or

Thalidomide cases. The plan would not cover genetically inherited diseases or damage from immunisation but BMA leaders said it would compensate haemophiliacs infected with the AIDS virus through blood products.

After a two-year study of claims submitted to 19 district health authorities in England in 1988 the BMA has calculated that a no-fault compensation scheme limited to medical accidents would cost about £100million a year.

Mr David Bolt, chairman of the working party, said that 292 cases, including non-fatal injuries, were studied. About 45 per cent were rejected because they were not related to the treatment provided, arose from unavoidable complications or were too trivial to merit compensation.

Where the injury was minimal and caused only a few weeks' pain, payments of between £500 and £5,000 were notionally awarded. When more permanent damage was sustained, as in a hand injury, a £25,000 award was considered justified. If the condition deteriorated the client would be allowed to appeal to the no-fault compensation board to review the payment.

In a minority of the 105 claims pursued, claimants were given additional compensation for loss of earning or for help in the home. Awards in this group ranged from £1,000 to £25,000.

New liver is child's only hope

By JOHN SHAW

TAMARA Rainey sat happily gurgling on her mother's lap yesterday as an appeal for a life-saving donor went out from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, via the UK Transplant Service. A liver transplant failed ten weeks ago and Tamara, who will be two next month, has a maximum of two weeks to live if a replacement is not found. Her mother Marina, aged 24,

made the appeal at the hospital where the first operation was carried out before Christmas. Mother and baby went home to north Belfast for the holiday "which was great because all the family was there. Now we are just waiting," she said.

Her husband, a British Telecom mechanic, will come over when a donor is found. Tamara is in Cambridge because there are no facilities for transplants in Northern Ireland. The couple have one other child, Stephen, aged one.

Tamara's condition is monitored daily and the transplant team is on 24-hour call should a life-saving organ be available anywhere in Britain. The main problem is to find a matching liver from a small child with an "O" blood group.



Tamara Rainey sitting on her mother's lap

So who's got in, why, and how were they all picked?

By BILL FROST

A THOUSAND new names are included in the 1991 *Who's Who* published yesterday at £72. Among them are newspaper columnist and man of the turf Jeffrey Bernard; sports commentators Harry Carpenter and Trevor Brookings; Sara Parkin, a prominent member of the Green party; and broadcasters Jeremy Paxman and Peter Sissons.

This year, as ever, much interest will focus on the newcomers. Jeffrey Bernard draws a discreet veil over the roistering and carousing which feature in his columns in *The Spectator*. Rather demurely, he admits only to interests in "cricket, racing, cooking and Mozart". Other recreations listed by newcomers are as diverse and eccentric as ever. Eileen

Rubery, senior medical officer at the health department, is never happier than when "reading Proust on the London Underground". The concert cellist Steven Isserlis lists among his passions "eating too much, regretting it". Arthur Meadows, professor of library and information studies at Loughborough university, is fond of "sleeping in meetings", while the writer Douglas Adams has a passion for "buying equipment for recreations I think I would like to take up one day".

Notable established entries include Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, MP for Perth and Kinross, who told *Who's Who* enigmatically that his hobbies were "growing, prowling, scowling and owling".

An entry in *Who's Who* is an entry for life. No crime or fall from favour will result in it

being removed. Lord Lucas is still there. Should his death ever be announced he would be transferred to the companion work, *Who Was Who*.

But how does the aspiring individual achieve membership of this exclusive club? Invitations go automatically to MPs, judges, QCs, senior civil servants, national newspaper editors and peers. Then the rules become a little more hazy. A & C Black, publishers of *Who's Who*, are very secretive. In fact staff will not give their names for fear of attracting the unwanted attentions of those who think themselves worthy of inclusion.

The company has a selection committee that sits throughout the year. However, the identities of those who make up the panel are secret, as are many of the criteria for selection.

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DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Labour sees slump denting Tory hopes

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE recession is biting deep into the Tory heartlands of southern England and Conservative MPs are likely to pay a high price for the government's economic failings at the next election, Labour's shadow cabinet was told yesterday.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, sketched out the political consequences of the downturn at an all-day meeting of the party's most senior political figures in London. His assessment was based on Labour's private polls showing that the latest shake-out in industry is undermining public confidence in the government's economic record.

The research suggests that people working in new service industries, which expanded greatly in the 1980s, are now being directly affected by job losses. That is leading them to question the so-called Tory economic miracle over the last ten years, the shadow cabinet was told.

The last recession is judged by Labour to have had a smaller than expected impact on voting behaviour because it was largely confined to the smoke-stack industries of the north and passed the south by.

This one, Labour believes, will prove politically more significant and put unemployment at the top of the agenda.

Mr Smith told the shadow cabinet: "All the current economic problems can be traced directly to the incompetence and error of the government in creating a boom simply to help themselves to victory in the 1987 general election. Unlike the 1981 recession, however, this one is affecting the whole country, particularly the south and south-east. That is something Conservative MPs in those areas will have to answer for."

Labour's research also shows that the replacement of Margaret Thatcher by John Major as prime minister has not provided a uniform lift in Tory fortunes.

On a number of key economic questions, people do not believe that their prospects are any better for the change of leadership. For instance, the ratio of people expecting their own personal financial circumstances to worsen in future alongside those expecting an improvement stands at 7:2 — exactly the same figure as Labour recorded privately before Mrs

Thatcher's downfall. Labour sources said that the "halo effect" of Mr Major's premiership was proving limited and was declining.

Labour plans to launch a new campaign on the economy early next month aimed at promoting its ideas for strengthening manufacturing industry and equipping Britain with a modern well-trained workforce capable of competing with its overseas rivals in the 1990s.

Mr Smith said: "Government strategy is to start off with a boom, creating the illusion of prosperity without the solid reality. Stop-go, boom-bust is the perennial feature of Conservative economic policy and it is taking Britain nowhere."

The shadow cabinet was also encouraged to hear that Labour has a bedrock support of about 40 per cent of voters. Labour sources said that represented a much higher and more durable core of support than at any time during the last decade. Nevertheless, Labour knows that it still has ground to make up if it is to persuade the country that it can run the economy at least as well as the Tories.



Stage fight: Liverpool Playhouse, which needs £1 million a year to stay open

Survival at stake as theatre acts out toughest role

RUNNING at the Liverpool Playhouse Theatre for the next three months is a real-life drama in which the main player will be the theatre itself.

The oldest surviving repertory theatre in Britain, which has been a springboard for many famous stage careers, has achieved the lesser distinction of becoming the first British theatre to be granted high court protection under the Insolvency Act. With debts of £600,000, a financial package of £1 million a year must be secured before next April if the final curtain at the playhouse is not to fall, ending more than a century of live theatre in Williamson Square in the city centre.

The high court agreed that Frank Taylor of the Liverpool accountants Ernst & Young should act as administrator in a last attempt to put the Playhouse on a sound financial footing. His record includes helping to save Tranmere Rovers football club from liquidation.

On Wednesday night he met the 18 members of the Playhouse board who would become liable for the theatre's debts if the company continued in deficit. Mr Taylor frequented the Playhouse balcony on a ninepenny ticket as a student. He said: "It is a wonderful place and well worth saving. Securing the future of the football club was done by introducing a millionaire who bought it. That is the simple way. Millionaires, though, tend to be shrinking violets but there may be one out there."

As the news spread that the theatre may be facing extinction, telegrams, telephone calls and facsimile messages poured in from famous names who owe much to the Playhouse.

Few provincial theatres can have provided such rich earth for theatrical talent. Among those who started their stage career at the Playhouse or who have long associations with it are three generations of the Redgrave family, Sir Noel Coward, Sir Rex Harrison, Glenda Jackson, Penelope Keith, Richard Briers, Anthony Hopkins, Eleanor Bron and Sir Ian McKellen.

Recent achievements by the Playhouse include two world premières, four national touring shows and three productions transferred to the West End. John

The Playhouse Theatre in Liverpool is faced with extinction. Ronald Faux reports on the fight to save it

Stalker, the theatre's administrative director, said: "The support we have had has been tremendous, very reassuring." The application for high court protection was even supported by the National Westminster Bank, the theatre's biggest creditor.

Merseyside's Labour MPs have requested an urgent meeting with Tim Renton, the arts minister, to discuss the crisis, and a fund-raising campaign will be launched next week.

Mr Taylor said: "We want men of goodwill prepared to come together and reach an accommodation to secure the future of the theatre. That will be dictated by the Arts Council, the local authorities, the private voluntary sectors in Merseyside and by our own audiences. It will be a collective effort by those who believe this is a worthwhile institution."

His prescription for success, he added, might include more private and corporate sponsorship, a few more popular classics to guarantee a full house along with the new plays and some selective increases in ticket prices.

Two months ago, the theatre completed a £120,000 interior restoration bringing back the original Victorian splendour, with plush seats, chandeliers and intricate plaster work.

The company accepts that the task of translating goodwill into hard cash will be Herculean. The five Merseyside local authorities supporting the theatre have their own pressing financial problems.

Their combined contribution fell far short of the £537,000 Arts Council grant which was cut over the last two years and is unchanged this year. The Playhouse has increased the regular audience to 57 per cent of capacity.

With local authorities starved of cash, the country in recession and Arts Council funding at a standstill, the Playhouse has precious few weapons with which to fight for survival.

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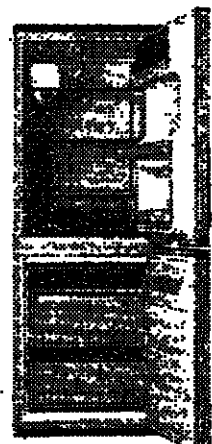
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Prince's plea for City funds

By CHARLES KNEVITT
ARCHITECTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales called yesterday for Britain's leading financial institutions to find new sources of capital funding for community development projects, using "a really creative approach to what many perceive to be an intractable problem."

In a statement from Sandringham House to mark the launch of the sixth annual Community Enterprise Award Scheme, of which he is patron, the prince said the results of some pilot work would be

discussed at a seminar to coincide with the presentation of this year's awards. Lord Scarman, who is chairman of the scheme sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, welcomed the prince's initiative and said that, given his leadership and "unselfish support", the problem may not be so intractable as it appears.

Ten awards will be given this year for "the most imaginative, viable and need-fulfilling" building projects in the UK. There will be a new category for rural initiatives, sponsored by the Rural Development Commission and the Post Office, and a business award, sponsored by United Biscuits (UK).

The closing date for entries is March 7. Details and entry forms from Robin Dean, Community Enterprise Scheme, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Telephone: 071-580 5533.

Car firm to make 335 redundant

Peugeot Talbot is making 300 manual workers redundant and cutting 35 staff jobs because of falling car sales and uncertainties caused by the situation in the Gulf.

The redundancies are the second in three months at the company's assembly plant at Ryton, near Coventry. The company hopes the cuts can be achieved by voluntary redundancy, early retirement and inter-plant transfers.

● Treats, the country's third largest ice-cream maker and a subsidiary of Birds Eye Walls is closing its Cross Gates factory in Leeds with the loss of 170 jobs because the site faces an uneconomical £5 million investment to meet EC requirements.

Pump action

William Waldegrave, MP for Bristol West, is understood to be seeking emergency listed status for a Victorian building at Clifton. The building's owners have agreed to postpone its demolition.

Taxi killer jailed

Lee Stevens, aged 20, a drug addict, was jailed for 16 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for shooting dead William Harris, aged 60, a taxi driver, in central London last June. Stevens, of Lambeth, south London, admitted manslaughter.

Marmalade fine

Rank Hovis McDougall was fined £500 with £418 costs by magistrates at Newton Abbot, Devon, yesterday after admitting selling a jar of Robertson's Silver Shred marmalade containing a piece of glass. A broken scanning machine was blamed for the incident.

Silver linings

Walrus Waterproofs is taking on 20 machinists at its factory in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire, to cope with doubled orders for rainwear, including an order for 5,000 waterproof golf suits from Spain.

All items subject to availability. All prices shown include VAT (except where indicated). Where a saving is stated, it is based on the previous price available at Comet for a period of 28 consecutive days in the previous 6 months. *Interest Free Credit, 0% deposit then 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 or 18 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £150 Deposit 10% = £15. Amount of payments = 10 months @ £13.50. Ask for a written credit quotation at your local store. †Selected Stores Only.

Georgian president accuses Moscow of provoking revolt

From ANATOL LIEVEN IN TELAVI

WITH Soviet troops reportedly massing on the borders of Georgia, the rebel republic's leader has ruled out any compromise with the leadership of the Georgian autonomous region of South Ossetia.

Dr Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Georgian supreme council, claimed yesterday that the Soviet government was provoking the confrontation in South Ossetia to give it an excuse to impose presidential rule in the republic. The Soviet ultimatum demanding, among other things, the withdrawal of Georgian police from the area, expires on Sunday.

Dr Gamsakhurdia said that large numbers of Soviet troops had assembled around the towns of Sochi and Mineralny Vody, just over the border in

the Russian Federation. A letter he received yesterday from General Mikhail Moiseyev, the Soviet chief of staff, informed him that the Soviet army "cannot remain passive" in the face of what the letter calls anti-army activities and threats to Soviet soldiers in Georgia. As in the Baltic, the army would help local military officials to enforce conscription in Georgia, the letter added.

Dr Gamsakhurdia said that it was now Georgian law that no Georgian should serve in the Soviet army under any circumstances. He said that if the Soviet government imposed presidential rule in Georgia by military means, "we will take all possible action against the Soviet troops". He said that this

might include launching a guerrilla war against them. He has announced the raising of new volunteer bodies in areas bordering on South Ossetia.

The Georgian leader said: "It is now perfectly clear that Mr Gorbachev is supporting terrorism in South Ossetia." He said that while the Soviet leader had demanded the withdrawal of Georgian police, he had not called for the disarming of South Ossetia's volunteer groups, which he claimed numbered 5,000 men.

Dr Gamsakhurdia called the leaders of South Ossetia "criminals, terrorists and usurpers of power". They were elected last month in polls which were not sanctioned by the Georgian government, as the Soviet constitution requires.

Dr Gamsakhurdia said that Ossete "extremists" were attacking the Georgian minority, forcing many to leave the region. He accused Soviet interior ministry troops, who are maintaining a state of emergency, of standing by and allowing this.

The Georgian leader denied Soviet claims that Georgian police were leaving South Ossetia. Reports on police in the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, are confused, and it may be that Georgian police are no longer stationed there on a permanent basis.

Dr Gamsakhurdia also said that the other minority nationalities in Georgia — over a quarter of the republic's population — were "not concerned" by what was happening in South Ossetia. But he also repeated that a proposed citizenship law would set "very strict criteria" for non-Georgians becoming citizens.

He said that these would include the question of when their ancestors settled in Georgia, and he has suggested that perhaps only those whose ancestors arrived before the first Russian annexation of 1801 would be given citizenship. A subsequent law will strip non-citizens of the right to own or inherit land.

Dr Gamsakhurdia said yesterday that "most of the national minorities were occupying forces in Georgia, and their ancestors came here as conquerors."

"All people can live here in peace, but those who do not want to live in peace with us must leave Georgia and return to their own homelands."

Fierce talk from small-town rebels

From OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN TSKHINVALI IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

SOUTH Ossetia's leaders are small-town municipal activists in a region where municipal disputes have traditionally been settled with firearms.

They have declared their tiny nationality of 67,000 people, descendants of the ancient Scythians, to be a "sovereign republic" in territory which 3.8 million Georgians regard as historically their own, with a large local Georgian population, and which is barely 50 miles from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. In doing so, they have tied the southern Ossetes firmly to Soviet power.

Toretz Kolumbekov, chairman of South Ossetia's regional council, said in the regional capital, Tskhinvali, that he did not wish to separate the territory from Georgia, "but if Georgia separates from the Soviet Union, we reserve our right to remain within the union". Since independence from Moscow is the passionate desire of the great majority of Georgians, the battle lines are clear.

The southern Ossetes are motivated by fearful memories of a previous Georgian suppression of an Ossete revolt, during the brief period of Georgia's renewed independence after the Russian revolution. These memories have been reawakened by the menacing attitudes shown to national minorities by contemporary Georgian nationalist leaders, including the new president, Dr Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgians regard the southern Ossetes, most of whom moved to Georgia over the past 300 years, as "recent immigrants". The Georgian Supreme Council has reacted to the Ossetes' declaration of sovereignty by declaring the abolition of South Ossetia's regional autonomy within Georgia.

Compromise between the Georgian government and the Ossetes has already been ruled out by Dr Gamsakhurdia. It is made even less likely because the southern Ossetes now hope not only to protect themselves against the Georgians, but also to unify with North Ossetia, an auto-

nomous republic of the Russian Federation on the other side of the main Caucasus range. The only way this could come about peacefully would be as part of some wider "Caucasian federation".

The southern Ossetes at the moment regard themselves as under the protection of troops of the Soviet interior ministry. Tension between the Ossetes and local Georgians is running high. Groups of youths from the separate nationalities gather at street corners, but for the moment they are keeping any arms out of sight.

Georgians say that the southern Ossetes are being used as pawns by the Soviet government to hinder Georgia's moves to independence. As such, they may well share the fate of so many other ethnic minorities in the European colonies — adopted as allies by retreating imperial powers then left to their fate when the retreat is complete. The "Democratic Soviet Republic of South Ossetia" already looks precarious enough, especially since the Georgian government has cut off its telephones.

Their "capital" is on the edge of the Georgian plain, surrounded by Georgian villages — though you can see the white mountains from every street pointing north, and that is where many young Ossetes look like going in the end.

The whole place is small, dusty and drab against the fantastical painted curtain of the mountains and the sky. The seat of the South Ossete "government" is an ordinary Soviet municipal office with peeling wallpaper and battered plastic furniture.

The leaders are local schoolteachers, the sort of people who in England would be protesting against building a motorway in the area. One old woman in fake pearls and a strange bag-like black hat looked as if she were on her way to open a flower show.

The notion of an independent republic of South Ossetia, as the Georgians say, a bad joke — but the hate-filled ethnic politics which are making schoolteachers and pensioners the butt of such jokes are anything but funny.



Legal measure: Nika Ceasescu, son of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae, giving evidence in Bucharest yesterday at the trial of his father's 23-strong politburo

Veteran activist faces tough sentence in Peking trial

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

A PEKING court official confirmed yesterday that Ren Wandong, a veteran human rights campaigner and essayist who has been condemned in the Chinese press for orchestrating anti-government unrest in 1989, is on trial on charges of counter-revolution.

The official refused to say when the trial started but confirmed that preliminary hearings were over. He said foreigners would not be

allowed to attend because the matter had nothing to do with foreign affairs.

Mr Ren, who served four years in prison after the Democracy Wall period of 1979 for putting up a political poster, is expected to be punished far more severely than four student leaders jailed last week for between two and four years. Mr Ren is the first of the big names to be tried in connection with the anti-government unrest which

shook China in the summer of 1989. He was arrested soon after the June 4 shootings, when the Chinese army entered central Peking, killing hundreds of unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square.

He was charged in the spring last year and has been detained since without trial as the authorities gathered evidence to produce at his trial to prove that he was spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda. Mr Ren was to be seen during the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, reading aloud his essays to crowds of workers and students.

A wiry, bespectacled and earnest man in his forties, Mr Ren is unusual among China's best-known dissidents in that he is not a student or an academic, but worked before his arrest as an assistant accountant for an equipment installation company. He invited journalists there to listen to readings of his essays.

He wrote of the plight of those still in prison after the Democracy Wall period, such as Wei Jingsheng, now in the eleventh year of a 15-year sentence. He had, with other dissidents, established the Chinese Human Rights Alliance during the Democracy Wall period.



Charge sheet: passers-by in Peking reading details on a court noticeboard about the trial of four student leaders accused of counter-revolution during 1989 riots. Observers claim the trials have been timed for when world attention is on the Gulf

Serb and Croat dissent casts shadow on talks

From DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

LEADERS of Yugoslavia's six republics began talks here yesterday on the country's future amid renewed protests by Slovenia and Croatia over military intervention in their affairs, and the repercussions of the financial scandal in which Communist-run Serbia secretly and illegally borrowed \$725 million to prop up its bankrupt economy.

An order on Wednesday by the state presidency to the Yugoslav army to secure return of weapons by civilians within ten days has cast a shadow over the negotiations. The presidency called on the army to disband all paramilitary units, saying that the arms were being smuggled to illegal groups and were increasing the danger of rebellion and ethnic strife.

Though the northwestern republics of Slovenia and Croatia were not specifically mentioned, it is clear that the action is mainly directed against them. The row is a fresh blow to the fragile fabric of the Yugoslav federation, and is bound to complicate still further the search for an accord on the country's future.

Slovenia and Croatia, where the Communists were removed after free elections last year, have already stated their preference for a loose confederal structure, while Serbia favours a centralised federation and has already declared that it would expand its borders should the confederal option prevail.

A further blow to the federal government and its reformist programme has come with the Serbian financial scandal, which has undermined the national monetary system and jeopardised Yugoslavia's credibility when the government badly needs international financial backing. The Serbs, by borrowing more than half the money allocated for the whole country in 1991, violated lending rules. The federal government responded by blocking Serbia's hard currency account and ordering it to return the money.

However, Croatia and Slovenia said on Wednesday that they would not accept administration by the federal government to boost the power of the federal bank and centralise the banking system.

Ante Markovic, the Yugoslav prime minister, recently said that rejection of his government's comprehensive reform programme, which offers parliamentary democracy and a market economy, would lead to chaos and anarchy, with a military takeover as the only outcome. The administration is to present to the participants at the talks a proposal that while the negotiations continue the leaders of the republics will respect the constitution and refrain from new squabbles.

But the state presidency's order to the army has already provoked serious protests in Slovenia and Croatia. Members of the Croatian leadership said that the order reduced the chances of the talks to the minimum. It is framed in such a way that it allows all options — including an army takeover — especially as it implies that the military in peace time can assume the police's duties.

The Croatian Council for National Defence promptly issued a statement saying that

the republic would oppose any army action on its territory, the message being that the Croats would resist with arms. It added that Croatia would oppose any attempt by the army to interfere in the constitutional competence of the republic's interior ministry.

Slaven Letica, adviser to the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, said: "The statement reduces the already fragile foundations of the talks in Belgrade to a minimum. The statement is so imprecisely written that it justifies all forms of army terror. It is unprecedented for an army in peace time to take over the duties of the police. Our expectations for a positive result in these talks were much higher two days ago than they are now."

Teenagers jailed for park rape

New York — Two teenagers convicted in the second trial stemming from the gang rape of a woman jogger in Central Park here have been jailed. Kharey Wise, aged 18, was jailed as an adult for between five and 15 years for assault, sexual abuse and riot charges.

Kevin Richardson, aged 16, who was 14 at the time of the 1989 attack, was jailed for between five and 10 years, the maximum juvenile sentence, for attempted murder, rape, sodomy and riot. Three other people have already been jailed in the case. (Reuters)

Hungary bids

Budapest — Hungary is to encourage private investors to bid for state-owned enterprises in an attempt to speed up and streamline the privatisation process, triggering public auctions for target companies, the director of the State Property Agency, said. (Reuters)

Colombia deaths

Bogota — Left-wing guerrillas stepped up attacks against Colombian security forces and economic targets and five soldiers and 15 rebels were killed, military sources reported. (Reuters)

Somalia looting

Nairobi — The agony of war-torn Mogadishu dragged on with government troops looting and shelling the city, rife with cholera and short of food, residents evacuated to Kenya from Somalia said. (AFP)

MP murdered

Islamabad — Gunmen shot and killed Faruq Qasbi, a member of parliament in Pakistan's Punjab province, when he was visiting a polling station during by-elections, the AFP news agency said. (Reuters)

Editor elected

Paris — Le Monde has elected its first non-journalist managing editor, the economist Jacques Lesourme, who received majority support from editorial staff to succeed Andre Fontaine. (Reuters)

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Rewriting the great American daydream

What with banks collapsing, legendary airlines going bankrupt and fear of imminent war, it is not surprising that many Americans want to escape from reality. In the more indulgent days, they might have turned to drugs or alcohol for a little distraction. In these chastened times there is not much left to do, except perhaps go to the cinema or daydream.

However, thanks to a school of experts, America is learning that daydreaming amounts to a symptom of a hitherto-ignored psychiatric condition called "dissociative disorder". In its extreme form this disorder". In its extreme form this condition of multiple personalities, condition of multiple personalities. But, according to a group of doctors who have just published their findings in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, as much as 10 per cent of the population may be suffering from the malady.

Here are some symptoms to watch for: finding your attention is wandering while listening to somebody talking; staring into the distance while listening; a sense of being an automaton; a feeling of unreality or that one is living in a movie; looking in the mirror and feeling sometimes that you cannot

recognise yourself. Almost a third of all 1,000 men and women in a study by Canadian psychiatrists reported that they often lost the track of their conversations, the *Journal* said.

"These are elusive symptoms," said David Spiegel of Stanford University. He believes that psychiatry has ignored the disorder. "Many people may have the problems and not realise it themselves. If you don't look for it you won't see it." Doctors at Columbia University in New York are now campaigning for a new diagnosis to be incorporated in the official American diagnostic manual. Many more traditional psychiatrists are not so

keen, however. A little reverie never hurt anyone, they say.

According to the conventional wisdom, hard times and fear of war encourage marital stability. People have less money or inclination for extramarital adventure and seek the comfort of the family.

In America at large, the divorce rate has plummeted over the past couple of years. But in New York things are not so rosy, at least according to two former police detectives. Tim Bartlett and Jerry Palace have been deluged with customers since they opened Check-a-Mate, the city's first gunshow agency devoted to verifying the fidelity of spouses and lovers on behalf of suspicious partners. "Adultery on the Rise," say the advertisements for Check-a-Mate, which estimates an increase of between 5 and 10 per cent a year in cheating by spouses.

Mr Bartlett offered a useful tip to suspicious spouses: you can extract possibly incriminating numbers by pressing the redial button of your telephone. The firm also does good business investigating new partners, a growing field on the American singles scene. In one case, an investment banker found that the

girl of his dreams was a prostitute. An identical pairing, of course, provided the plot of *Pretty Woman*, the most successful film of 1990. That ended with the happily-ever-after union now obligatory in Hollywood hits, from *Working Girl* to *Crocodile Dundee*, clearly the stuff of romantic escapism.

However, a little incident in New York this week provided hope for those who believe that such high romance is not just the stuff of fairytales and daydreams. It was early afternoon on the Wollman Rink, the open-air Central Park site. Hundreds of skaters were swirling around the ice when the music suddenly stopped and the loudspeaker boomed. "Attention all skaters. Please slow down and come to a complete stop."

"Now, is there a Judith Kleinschmidt on the ice?" said the loudspeaker. A woman with a ponytail sheepishly identified herself. The crowd watched in silence. "Judy," the voice said. "There's someone here who wants to speak to you." Another voice came on: "Judy, I love you. I've always loved you. I want you to marry me. Will you?" The crowd cheered and clapped, just like the movies, while the woman nodded her assent.



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Of mynahs and men

Philip Howard

The new Secretary of State for the Environment said the other day that his plans for the poll tax were "reflective of public concern". Be the political judgment of that as it may (leave that to the political backs), look at Mr Heseltine's grammar. It is an egregious example of a prepositional pox that has suddenly started to rage in the prose of professional speakers and writers. "Of" is such a silly little word to have grown so mighty.

The latest trick is to use an adjective (especially a participle used as an adjective) plus "of", instead of the plain verb or adjective. Things no longer reflect, they are "reflective of". We no longer support somebody, we are "supportive of" her. We no longer consider or are plainly considerate. We are "considerate of". When you start listening and reading for the trick, you find it everywhere. In the past few days, numerous sightings and hearings have been recorded *passim* in the London area. Aggressive of, caring of, undermining of, paranoid of, ignoring of, protective of, and, in the *Standard*, a resounding dismissive of, meaning that the party of the first part had given the party of the second part the old leave-ho, with off on. What can it all mean, other than that humans are worse than mynah birds at picking up each other's idiom?

I guess that the new grammatical trick comes from the psycho-babble of the social services, and such politicians and journalists are parasitic upon them. Certainly a lot of these adjectives that have started to take "of" seem to come from the caring industry, including "caring" itself. It is a natural human characteristic to make one's job or interest sound important, esoteric, beyond the comprehension of the common herd.

This tendency is especially prevalent among those trades that work with the crooked timber of humanity. Nuclear physicists and electronic engineers do not need to bother trying to blind us with their jargon. But with the social and caring professions it is different. We all think (quite wrongly) that we could do just as well as politicians, lawyers, social workers, teachers, judges, journalists and educationists if we were given half a chance and put our minds to it. So it is natural for such social trades to invent impressive jargon, to persuade the rest of the world that when they talk about everyday things they are doing so in a specialised and professional manner. It sounds more impressive to say that we must be supportive of the poor little old lady in her cold bed-sit than that we must look after her. Any fool can look after somebody. It sounds more professional to say that one's proposed legislation is

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

When I tell them that I was on my way to the Garrick Club last Tuesday, regular readers will understand why my little heart was going pit-a-pat. They will remember that the last time I went to the Garrick, some rather stole my new blue overcoat from what they call the gentlemen's cloakroom, for all the world as if it were a cloakroom patronised by gentlemen. And since that overcoat has never reappeared - except, of course, in South America, as part of the regular consignment of swag fished from visiting non-members and shipped aboard the rusty *assy* which the Garrick brigandage keeps conveniently moored at Westminster pier with its engine running - you will, I know, sympathise with the palpitations rhythmically buckling the upper slopes of the new brown overcoat which replaced it.

For the new brown overcoat had never been to the Garrick before, and this could thus be its last sight of England, despite the fact that Mummy had been up all night sewing name-tapes into not only it, but also my brown felt hat and my umbrella because, given the sleet, I needed all three, notwithstanding the risks attendant on the huge amounts they could command upon the streets of Buenos Aires, where anything with a Swaine, Adeney & Briggs label is quoted, such is the meld of Latin chic and Latin inflation, not in pesos but in eye-teeth.

Now, in order to carry victims from Cricklewood to the Garrick, the No 13 bus is required to pause in its Regent Street trundle and heave to outside the Cafe Royal, doubtless to enable lucky peripatetic rednecks to catch a glimpse of famous corporate lunchers following their Havanas through the swing-doors. But as I glanced down from the upper deck in the hope of being able to tell my future grandchildren that I had once seen the Chief Executive of Wundatash Toilet Novelties plc, a yet more memorable sight interrupted the dropping eye. On the roof of the bus-stop's shelter, its sodden pages flicking in the gale, lay a book. And not just any old book, either, being a mere 5ft

above it, I could see at once that it was *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, that distillation of the precious life-blood of a thousand master spirits without which the simple task would have to find a less felicitous way of describing it.

The brain thrummed in counterpoint to the 13's idling crankshaft: what kind of person defenestrates an *ODQ* from the Cafe Royal? A literary diner, forearmed to crush a diletante waiter with a witheringly apt quote, but unable to find it? A volatile bimette who had bought it in Hatchard's as a present for a chief executive who had promised to tell his wife all, but who, over the quail, had explained that, sorry, his wife hadn't been feeling very well lately? A drunken member of the Wiskey Rugby Club in a private suite, reminding them of how he had settled the 1973 Hornchurch match with a drop goal in the final seconds?

I looked at my watch. Ten full minutes remained to my appointment. I clattered down the stairs, ran into the Cafe Royal and up to the reception desk. "Should one of your guests ask you if anybody's handed in a copy of *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*," I said, "you might tell him it's on top of the bus-shelter outside."

The chap looked at me with the eyes of someone who is suddenly looking forward to getting home so that his wife can ask him what kind of a day he's had, but all he said was: "Thank you, sir."

I got to the Garrick bang on time, puffed but smug, met my host, and went to hang up my hat and coat in as secure a spot as possible. It was as I was wondering whether to ask the porter for a padlock that it was borne in on me that I was not hanging up my umbrella. This was because I did not have my umbrella. The 13 bus had my umbrella.

"Ah," said my host, after I had cursed for a bit, "we are to dumb Forgetfulness a prey." I didn't think he had the quotation quite right, but since the only way to check was to run back to Regent Street and shin up the bus-shelter, I said nothing.

And anyway, it was one fewer item for the Garrick to nick.

Radio 3: a classic case of conspiracy

Janet Daley sees in the BBC's serious-music monopoly the mirror of a larger cultural divide

The expected loss of Radio 3's monopoly of classical music broadcasting has been greeted with an avenging glee that seems to go beyond the bounds of a welcome for pluralistic programming. What you regard as being off-putting about Radio 3 depends on your predilections. If you like mainstream classical music, you may feel disenfranchised by the enforced tastes of musical fashion, which favour either contemporary works by composers so new that they are nonentities in world musical terms, or "authentic" re-creations of early music.

If you are a newcomer to the whole business, having been attracted to good music by the odd World Cup theme or television soundtrack, you will be intimidated (or intensely annoyed, depending on your degree of self-confidence) by Radio 3's smug cliquishness. Not that its official voice is any longer insufferable. In its attempt to find a more popular persona, presenting style has become positively chatty. Gone, in the interests of informality, is the mellifluous flow of knowing enunciation. (One announcer recently took four attempts to pronounce "Christoph von Dohnanyi".) The real problem with Radio 3 remains its content.

Now there are perfectly good grounds for offering protection to such minority interests as avant-garde compositions or purist musical revivals. What is difficult to fathom is the assumption that these rarefied interests should be disproportionately represented on the only classical music radio station we have. It is important to examine the mentality which sees this as acceptable, because it has a significance for British life that goes beyond the issue of Radio 3 and its future competitors.

Confronted with popular demand for a more traditional music repertoire, Radio 3 partisans invariably begin shrieking about "wall to wall Vivaldi". Criticised for wanting to inflict their arcane preferences on an informed but still general audience (which is to say, not one comprised of members of a private club), they cry "up-market, Muzak". But this argument is not between those who wish to replace Mozart with Mantovani. To the extent that one could call the defenders' attitude elitist, it is an elitism based not on quality but on esoteria.

This is the crucial ground which Radio 3 apologists share with many others who see themselves as defending high culture against populist pressures. There are those who frankly regard Radio 3 as the official outlet for the musical establishment: as a promoter of British composers, a protector of British orchestral players and a noticeboard for what those on the inside like to call "the living tradition" of British music. It is not so much a service to a potential country-wide audience as a branch of a particular association, into which one is initiated by a specialist musical education.

In this respect, the attitude is at one with that of other specialised forms of training which breed similarly incestuous networks hived off from the larger interests of an educated public. The art schools are a prime example of this, separating artists and designers from a more literate and well-balanced education so that their frame of reference is cut off from the mainstream of intellectual life.

What grows from this early and extreme specialism in institutional education is the mentality of the charmed circle. One is not so much pursuing higher education in the interests of enlightenment as undergoing an initiation into a network whose privileges follow from inside knowledge. Hence the importance of rarefied references and coded judgments, and the equating of traditional taste with vulgarity. It is the literal commonness of such preferences that rules them out of respectability.

Whatever the aesthetic implications of this separatism, its consequences for the accessibility of high culture are dire. If cultural institutions are extensions of their respective professional establishments, which, in turn, reinforce their own importance by their control of these outlets, then they will be locked into an intractably exclusive (and often corrupt) conspiracy against a lay audience.

So vehement is the resistance to concessions to approachability in the presentation of art, that when the director of the V&A, Elizabeth

Esteve-Coll, proposed her intention to place the museum's exhibits in an interpretive context, because "most of our visitors now are not trained classicists", she was attacked in the most vitriolic terms. In a campaign led by the waspish art history lobby, which saw the museum as a repository for its own scholarly use, she was virtually accused of turning the place into an extension of Tussaud's.

Of course, one does not want to turn every cultural monument into a didactic theme park or give in to commercial pressure for the pre-packaged aesthetics of high-class tourism. But it will not do to pretend that every move towards widening the entry to aesthetic experience is a philistine capitulation, or that the only acceptable aesthetic judgments are those of one's professional club. If you prevent people from finding their way to high culture, what you are denying them is participation in the full life of reason. That is too high a price for the majority of people to have to pay in order to guarantee the self-satisfaction of a few.

Gulf poker minus the ace

Michael Evans argues that America and Britain may regret the public disavowal of their nuclear option

When facing the prospect of war, both sides need to assess the odds. It is not just a question of who has more troops, more tanks or more missiles. Far more important is who has the will to use the maximum force to gain a victory? Who can be counted on to fight when the war begins? What if things go wrong?

Options for war depend upon a series of calculations, one of the most important of which is the likely retaliation by the enemy to a particular form of attack. In preparation for battle, the deterrent factor cannot be over-estimated. Nuclear deterrence, for example, has been at the heart of Nato's defence policy for more than 40 years. The concept of flexible response, under which the alliance, if faced by an overwhelming conventional defeat, threatens to use tactical nuclear weapons, to be followed by medium-range nuclear weapons, and so on, helped to dissuade the Soviet Union from launching its armour across the border during the cold-war years.

Deterrence must also play a part in the present allied confrontation with Iraq. If President Saddam Hussein is prepared to fight a war with the United States and 30 other countries, he has to make the same calculations as any leader wishing to avoid defeat. Until recently, there must have been an element of doubt in his mind about the possibility of facing a nuclear attack by the Americans. Even a small seed of uncertainty is enough to make a commander think seriously about following a particular military path.

Saddam has threatened on many occasions to unleash chemical and biological warfare on allied troops on the other side of the Kuwaiti border. Until now, the response from America and Britain has been clear: such a decision would bring retribution on a "massive" scale. The meaning behind those words did not need spelling out. Massive is an overused word, but in military jargon it implies only one thing: the possibility of a nuclear strike.

For some unexplained reason, unnamed senior American officials stated categorically earlier this week that nuclear weapons would not be used in the Gulf. One report had it that General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the American forces in the Gulf, had asked President Bush to approve the detonation, in the event of war, of a nuclear device in the air over Iraq to generate an electro-magnetic swamping of all electronic equipment, in particular communication systems. These comments were followed by even more specific statements by John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Both ruled out the use of nuclear weapons.

No one in his right mind would advocate the use of tactical nuclear weapons against Iraqi forces. The implications are too awful to contemplate. Saddam himself may have judged there was little likelihood of facing a nuclear strike if he went ahead and launched chemical and biological weapons. He knows, for example, that America, a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, should not consider using nuclear weapons against a country which does not possess them.

But Saddam could not be sure, and that is the whole tactic of deterrence. It is an implied threat. The risk, however small, cannot safely be dismissed. So why has the golden rule of nuclear deterrence been broken this week? Never to comment on the presence of nuclear weapons has been a prudent practice for many years, so why disregard it now when the allied forces in the Gulf are threatening Saddam with war?

The Iraqi leader had clearly taken the nuclear factor on board.



The ultimate threat of the Tornados has been lifted

Only a few weeks ago, officials in Baghdad were instructing residents on how to cope with bombing raids on the capital. They were warned that they could face a nuclear attack. Saddam believed what he was told by the western media, that nuclear-capable bombers were present in the Gulf and that hundreds of nuclear systems were deployed at airfields and on warships.

Like deterrence, propaganda has an important role to play in the build-up to a conflict. If the propaganda message is believed, it makes war-planning more difficult. The allied force commanders have faced a similar problem. The threat from chemical and nerve-gas weapons has been included in General Schwarzkopf's planning from the beginning. The biological

Could Saddam produce a crude device, "dirty" nuclear bomb? With the threat of a nuclear attack by the allied forces now apparently lifted, Saddam can turn his mind to other important calculations he has to make before deciding finally to reject the withdrawal option and to fight a war. Although he dare not underestimate the awesome American firepower, he may have calculated that war is a feasible option, especially since General Schwarzkopf can only be sure of having British, French and Saudi forces alongside him when D-Day arrives. Saddam has only to provoke the Israelis into joining battle in order to persuade Egypt, possibly Syria, to back out of the coalition. President Mubarak of Egypt gave a warning on Wednesday that he would revise his policy if Israel became involved in the conflict.

Saddam is a survivor. He cannot want a war that threatens to destroy him. But he has his potential enemies helped him to change his calculations? Assured that he will not face a nuclear strike, will he be tempted to go for a chemical or biological attack at the start of a conflict in the hope of disrupting an allied ground offensive?

He already knows that he can expect a massed attack by American and British conventionally-armed strike aircraft. That prospect does not yet appear to have turned his mind towards withdrawal. So what will he lose by launching chemicals, nerve-gas and anthrax? It is a dangerous calculation for him to make. But with only days left before the UN Security Council's January 15 deadline, he has to convince himself that his plan will work. If not, he will withdraw, although not by next Tuesday.

If he goes for war, the deterrence built up by the United States and other countries over the past five months will have failed. Washington and London may regret the day they removed the hint of nuclear retaliation from the war rhetoric that helped to stop Saddam from invading Saudi Arabia immediately after his success in Kuwait.

Revolt on the home front

With John Major winning widespread admiration for his handling of the Gulf confrontation, he might have expected approval to be especially strong in his own backyard. But to the embarrassment of Tories in his Huntingdon constituency, the chief organiser of a protest against military action due to start in Hyde Park today is John Macaulay, daughter of the local party chairman. Worse: Macaulay has enlisted the support of the Bishop of Huntingdon, who intends to give the most famous member of his flock a piece of his mind on the matter.

"My conscience tells me I must discuss the matter with Mr Major, my local MP. Knowing him as I do I had thought he might be more flexible," says the bishop. "The demonstration has my full support, even if I am a lonely voice of protest at being sucked into a confrontation."

Macaulay, aged 28, is unrepentant about the furore she has caused in Huntingdon Tory circles. She says: "I am disappointed and surprised by John Major. He is a nice chap, but he has not allowed proper public debate for the course of action he is pursuing. There will be a better debate in Hyde Park. Major has allowed us to be railroaded into a state of war by being too eager to please the Americans. I expected better from him, but he is no improvement on Mrs Thatcher."

Macaulay expects thousands to attend the demonstration at Speakers' Corner, which will continue around the clock until the United Nations deadline expires next week. She says she has

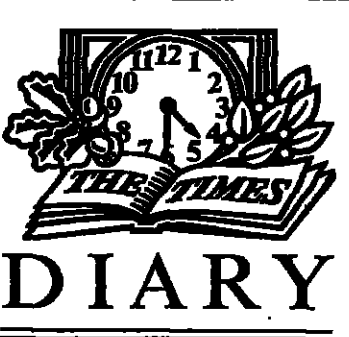
discussed the matter extensively with her mother, Olive Baddeley, the local party chairman. "My mother respects my point of view. It's not a problem," she says.

Mrs Baddeley is equally diplomatic. "We have agreed to differ. Many prominent political families are the same position. It will not faze Mr Major at all."

Call of the net

Pérez de Cuéllar and the United Nations were not the only parties launching Gulf peace initiatives yesterday. The directors of the Carlton Tennis Club in north London wrote to the American and Iraqi ambassadors to Britain calling on them "to settle their differences in the most sporting way on or before January 15 under rules acceptable to the UN Security Council" - by a game of tennis.

Whatever the result, say the directors, Stuart Bayley and Charles Rifkind, cousin of the transport secretary Malcolm, "we hope the two parties, and as a result their peoples, will realise that the principles of sportsmanship are a better basis for resolving conflict than making war." Officers, recalling the exploits of John McEnroe, or even the Dauphin's



DIARY

gift of a casket of tennis balls to Henry V before the battle of Agincourt, may not be so sure.

Who's doing what

The latest edition of *Who's Who*, published yesterday, reveals the usual collection of bizarre and exotic pastimes pursued by the great and the good. Spicing up such traditional pursuits as reading, writing and listening to music is, for example, film director Alan Parker, this year boasting a passion for playing Dixieland on the clarinet and breeding exhibition pantoms. His fellow director Michael Winner has dropped his previous worthy but mundane entry ("walking around art galleries") in favour of "being difficult". The creator of the *Death Wish* films says: "I have become more cantankerous in my old age. Everybody should be difficult in restaurants and with plumbers and builders. It leads to higher efficiency."

Crown Court Recorder John Bridges-Adams has amended his recreation to "doing what is bad for me" - an improvement, surely, on last year when he listed his favourite pastime as "kicking against the pricks".

Most interesting, however, is how entrants deal with the onset

of old age. Professor James Pegler, formerly of City University, has taken up tap-dancing at the age of 78. "I previously listed lawn tennis but I'm not much good at it," he says from his Dorking home. "I have taken dancing lessons and, although not in the Fred Astaire class, I really am rather good."

On the other hand, Brigadier Harry Hopthorn has decided that it is about time he gave up yachting. At 95, he has instead taken up "intellectual conversation with intelligent ladies".

John Major opened yesterday's cabinet meeting by congratulating Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, on his recent engagement. "If anyone else in the cabinet wants advice on how to woo a lady with the Special Branch looking on the entire time, they should come to me," Brooke replied.

Stalker's day

Although John Stalker has refused to have anything to do with *Hidden Agenda*, the fictionalised film of his experience in Northern Ireland made by Ken Loach which opens in London today, the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester is looking forward to his own starring role on the small screen this weekend.

On Sunday night the Midland Bank will unveil its new £7 million advertising campaign fronted by Stalker. Chit Day, the advertising agency responsible for the Midland account, says Stalker was chosen for his image of decency. "John will be featured in five adverts," says a spokesman. "We believe viewers will identify with his honest image and his objective view of life."

Stalker still lives in Manchester,

and since he resigned from the police has been making a living from journalism and punditry. He has just started writing a book for Hamish Hamilton about modern policing and has a jaundiced view of the rash of television and cinema projects spawned by his abortive foray into the murky world of Northern Ireland.

"I have no connection whatever with the Loach film and haven't even seen it," he says. "I get regular approaches from people to make a film of my book *Stalker*, but nothing has happened, perhaps because I insist on keeping personal control."

Drake's return?

The restless spirit of Sir Francis Drake may finally be brought home to his beloved West Country. A Wiltshire school-teacher claims he is close to discovering the great seaman's final watery grave off South America.

"Sir Francis died of dysentery in 1596 and was buried by his crew in a lead-lined coffin," says Michael Turner, who hopes to lead an expedition to recover the body. "I'm certain I am close to locating the casket. It's three miles off the Panamanian coast."

The last attempt to recover the body, part of Operation Drake, failed in 1979. "But technology has greatly improved since then," says Turner. "We should easily be able to find a lead-lined box beneath the seabed. It's hermetically sealed and the remains of Drake should be in pretty good condition."

Good enough, Turner hopes, to be transported back to England to be buried in Devon. "I want to see his body buried in the grounds of his former home at Buckland Abbey, near Plymouth."

Is there still time for the pacifist?

What can a professional peacemaker do as his country stands on the brink of war?
Kate Muir reports

A good disguise, the wheelchair. Good for sneaking through airports on the quiet, for who would suspect that a disabled septuagenarian might be a go-between for opposing kings, crown princes, politicians and diplomats? Nothing dangerous about having a Quaker wheel into the country.

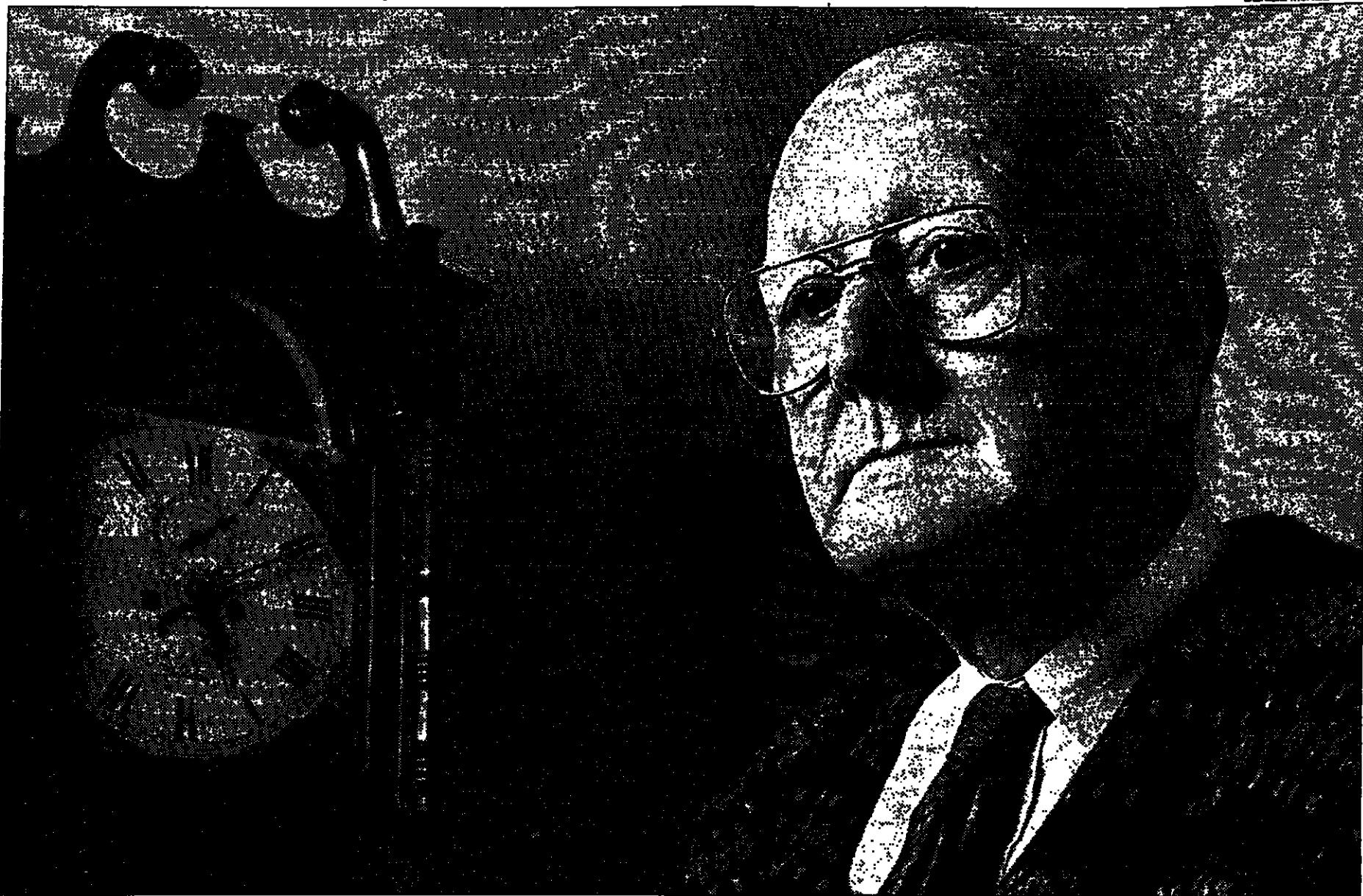
Sydney Bailey, aged 74, Quaker and pacifist, relies on that innocuous anonymity when he goes on quiet peacemaking missions to the Middle East and Northern Ireland, passing messages from sworn enemy to sworn enemy. This week he was to have travelled to Baghdad with the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, "to encourage action to secure justice and avoid violence". Yesterday, as they prepared to fly out, the trip was cancelled. Although Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was prepared for his staff to help the mission, it became too late to talk as Britain began to close its embassy in Iraq.

In missions such as this, Mr Bailey and fellow Quakers provide an impartial and, most importantly, unofficial channel for negotiations when propaganda dictates that no side can make concessions in public. Best of all, his mediation takes place in private. "I once asked Terry Waite why he gave press conferences before he went off on a mission, and he said: 'Have you ever seen someone who is nearly 7ft tall slip unnoticed through an airport?'"

Mr Bailey is one of Britain's few full-time professional pacifists; although the Quakers are too egalitarian to have leaders, he comes closest to being their peace guru. He has made a career in writing about avoiding war, or, at least, ending it. He was the Quaker observer at the United Nations for four years in the Fifties, providing a safe house for opposing diplomats to talk on the quiet, and later began mediating between Israeli foreign ministers, leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and even Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan.

"You must try, speak up, at least do something, even if you never see any tangible results," Mr Bailey says. "My conscience as a Quaker dictates that I must make some contribution. If you can just induce people on one side of the conflict to see the other side as human, then that calms fear and hatred."

Pacifists, with their no man's land Gulf peace camps, their missions to mediate, their orderly protests, can seem quaint and well-meaning, signifying nothing. Yet their voices, the voices of Quakers, or of the Gulf peace team, are the only chink in the rhetoric of warmongering. In the United States, Vietnam veterans and pacifists have marched in their thousands, chanting: "No. No. We won't go. We won't fight for Texaco." In Britain, 18,000 Quakers are standing back saying: "Hold on. Is this really inevitable?"



A time for talking: Sydney Bailey believes "you must try, speak up, at least do something... my conscience as a Quaker dictates that I must make some contribution"

Mr Bailey thinks not. "These things gain a momentum of their own. They build and build. We should never have narrowed the Iraqis' options by putting a specific date for withdrawal actually in the UN resolution. Now there is no room to change that."

The analysis from Mr Bailey's living room in East Finchley, London, earlier this week was that we should rely more on time and talks. He is keen on time, each word of his conversation spiced by the ticking of two huge clocks which dominate the room. We should have waited one year, even two, for sanctions to bite, he says. His technique is to apply the methods of a Society of Friends' meeting to the global crisis — sitting in silence, listening to the grievances of others, balancing each view, not aiming for unanimity, but movement forward on which everybody can agree.

"It works when we talk to opposing sides because we are part of the Quaker commitment to the truth," Mr Bailey says. "We build trust slowly by listening and showing we care just as much for the humanity on each side."

The peacemaking role has always been an essential part of the Quaker interpretation of Christianity. Quakers were already in mediation mode by 1677, 30 years after the movement was founded, when Robert Barclay sent his "Epistle of Love and Friendly Advice to the Ambassadors of the Several Princes of Europe".

The Society of Friends sent mediators to both Germanys throughout the cold war, to Nigeria in the Biafran war, endlessly to Belfast, and it has worked for ten years in Sri Lanka. Mr Bailey became interested in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict during his time at the United Nations, and mediated between the foreign offices of Egypt and Israel in 1973. "Many opportunities for peace are missed by governments, sometimes due to lack of imagination or even ill will, but more usually due to the divided counsels on both sides. By listening to them, you can make your pacifism an active thing."

"I can't cite a major breakthrough by Quakers, but if you know you have prevented one misunderstanding, helped in the release of one batch of prisoners, sown the seed of one idea, then it is worthwhile." His manner is gentlemanly. He has a strong belief in the importance of using the UN in disputes, penning the right resolution, taking disagreements to the world court.

Iraq, he says, "complained about the artificial boundary created with Kuwait in the 1920s, alleged Kuwait was exceeding oil quotas, and brought up the problem of access to the Gulf and the Palestinian question. If we had listened to begin with this might never have started. If Iraq left Kuwait we could begin to deal with those grievances."

Mr Bailey has made a long study of conflict. Four shelves by the

fireplace contain his works: *How Wars End* (Vols 1 and 2), *Four Arab Israeli Wars* and *The Peace Process*, *War and Conscience in the Nuclear Age*. Despite his extensive knowledge of global politics, he still expects inherent decency to win through.

His pacifist convictions were formed for him inadvertently at the age of 13 by the Bishop of Blackburn. "He came to my school and cited the passage 'Render therefore unto Caesar the things

'We build trust by listening and showing we care for the humanity on each side'

which are Caesar's", in order to prove our duty to the state was also our duty to God, and he urged us to fight to extend the British empire. But I thought even then that our duties to God and the state should be separate. It couldn't be right for Christ to be a fighter."

Mr Bailey was a conscientious objector in the second world war. At the first tribunal to prove his pacifism, in front of carefully selected, decent citizens — a doctor, a trade unionist, an academic, a businessman and a judge — he explained that his family was Methodist, but he had attended the

Congregational church, and now was a pacifist tending towards Quakerism. The judge said: "So when are you going to change your religion next?" and put him down for the draft.

He appealed, and won, because the next tribunal asked him if he had ever done anything for humanity. He replied that he had given 28 pints of blood, and was allowed to serve in the Friends' Ambulance Unit in Burma and China. That was where the non-warrior got his war wound. He contracted the tropical disease bilharzia, which nobody identified until years later, when it had infected much of his leg, and some internal organs.

In China he joined the Society of Friends. There being a shortage of Quakers in China, two non-members had to examine his beliefs and the rest was conducted by letter.

He returned to London to work with those made homeless by the Blitz, meeting his wife, Brenda, also a Quaker, in the process. "In London, where people were close to the war, no one seemed to mind you being a conscientious objector, so long as you helped. But when I went up to the Yorkshire Dales, people would stick white feathers in my buttonhole."

"In some ways it is a great luxury that this country allows us to refuse to serve in a war. One does face a dilemma about what to do about aggression, cruelty and persecution. In 1939 we had to deal with Hitler, but someone had to say there must be a better way, there

must be an alternative to violence. If everybody in the country had refused, we wouldn't have gone to war."

What of violence closer to home? If, for example, someone tried to kill a member of his family? "That's what they asked me when I was a conscientious objector — would you use violence if a Nazi was about to rape your wife? My first aim would be to talk, to interpose myself between the victim and the aggressor, to show I was willing to suffer instead. But often instincts and fear are hard to deal with. If I used violence, I would regret it terribly later."

Mr Bailey is aware pacifism is seen differently now. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the dismantling of communism and superpower disarmament have brought it more popular acceptance. Quakerism is not doing quite so well. "There are still about 18,000 of us in Britain, but most children of Quakers do not join — including my own. We still see people coming in from other churches to find a home, though."

He believes, however, the Quakers' pacifist stance is gaining support, particularly in the last stages of mediation in the Gulf. As Clausewitz wrote: "War is the continuation of politics by other means." Mr Bailey is keen that the talking should continue and the other means should wait.

Stop the ski slope speeders

Are the pleasures of the piste going rapidly downhill?

SKIERS joining the rush to enjoy the best start to a season for years have been warned: slow down or face a fine.

Tomorrow, when Interiski (the organisation of ski instructors) meets in St Anton, in the Austrian Tyrol, Franz Hoppichler, its president, will tell the delegates that their sport has been hijacked by the speed merchants. As a result, he believes, the millions who flood to the slopes every year face unnecessary dangers, and miss the sheer pleasure of the mountains that attracted the sport's pioneers.

He wants the European ski countries to follow the United States' example in introducing ski patrols with powers to slow skiers down, fine them for reckless behaviour and keep them away from avalanche-prone, off-piste territory.

Herr Hoppichler, a 59-year-old Austrian who used to coach his country's downhill team, fears that the sport's idols, men such as the former world downhill champion Franz Klammer, have unwittingly destroyed its true essence. And he claims that holiday skiers, beguiled by the glamour of the downhillers, have lost a sense of their own limitations and are putting themselves and others at risk.

Most resorts have no powers to stop novice skiers going to the top of the mountain and trying to hurtle down at considerable risk to themselves and everyone else in their path. The vast improvements in ski safety equipment in recent years have encouraged reckless skiing. Fast-release bindings and modern protective boots mean falls that would once have caused a broken leg result only in a blow to the pride.

JUDGING by the pace at which recreational skiers, and demonstration teams preparing for the conference, are bombing down the demanding terrain of St Anton, Herr Hoppichler faces an uphill task in his mission to apply the brakes. But he believes that the 2,000 ski instructors from 30 nations who are attending have the power to lead the way. The lessons they learn next week will be taken back to 300,000 instructors all over the world. "If they can get over to their millions of learners that the sport is not all about speed, if they ridicule the out-of-control skier as he races past, the message will eventually get home," he says. "Skiing was once a joy. It was not about racing, head down, in helmets like American footballers. Somewhere, we have lost something."

PHILIP WEBSTER

After 50 years, a grim reminder of war still hangs over a Cambridgeshire field in the Gog Magog hills

The tree that grew a Wellington

Of the many hundreds of war planes that came to grief in the second world war, there is one whose wreckage has still not all reached the ground. Swaying in the wind in the upper branches of a beech tree in Cambridgeshire, the skeleton of the tail fin of a Wellington bomber which crashed on January 10, 1941, still hangs between heaven and earth. The plane struck the tree before plunging into the field beside it, killing all but one of its crew of six.

The beech stands near the bungalow of Marjorie Reynolds, aged 80, in what is now the Wandlebury country park in the Gog Magog hills, near Cambridge. If it had not deflected the plane, or the pilot had changed course at the last moment, she believes that the Wellington would have flown full tilt into the house where she was with her small daughter.

"I was in my kitchen looking out towards the tree when I heard this awful noise," she says. "We were used to the

noise of planes coming over towards Bassingbourn airfield, but this was far louder. It was a slightly misty, frosty morning. Then I saw the plane. It was coming straight towards us. I thought my last hour had come. I just shut my eyes. There was a crash, and after the house stopped shaking, I looked out and saw that the field at the side seemed to be covered with little fires. All the men on the estate came running, but there was only one of the crew who was still in one piece. He was the tail gunner."

The bomber left a large section of its tail in the tree, and the remains were abandoned as not worth recovering. A section measuring about 9ft by 6ft still hangs, tilted like a smashed tree-house, about 40ft above ground. Mrs Reynolds is hardly troubled any longer by the gaunt wreckage in sight of her windows. "Some bits have come down, but what is left is absolutely embedded in the timber — the tree has just grown around it," she says. "I

expect it will stay there till the tree itself comes down."

The Wellington was based at Feltwell, in Norfolk, with 75 Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. As it made a routine cross-country flight in poor visibility over the flat fenlands to Bassingbourn, 35 miles away, it clipped the tree on the low Gog Magog hills.

The only survivor of the crash was Sergeant R.E. Ashby-Peckham of the RNZAF. "When he was able to walk, the rear gunner came back to thank the people here," Mrs Reynolds says. "My husband saw him, still walking with a limp."

Even though it is high in the branches, the relic has attracted souvenir hunters, says Mrs Reynolds's neighbour, Bill Clark, a warden at the Wandlebury country park, whose wife has researched the story of the crash. "We have had to chase off intruders with ropes and ladders several times. About ten years ago I woke up in the middle of the night and found that three of

them had taken my own ladders, which I use for tree surgery, and had almost climbed up to the wreckage."

The tree is an old one, and has suffered badly from the gales and droughts of recent

years. Another storm might bring it down at any time, and finally bring to an end the 50-year history of the last flight of the Gog Magog Wellington.

GEORGE HILL



Trapped: the skeletal remains of the Wellington, high in the branches of a beech

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GALLERIES

By the light of the silvery moon

There is no end to the ways painting can be categorised. The proof of any show is in the seeing, but somehow if a new arrangement of materials can be dignified with a new definition it is felt to confer a greater intellectual respectability. Just such an opportunity is offered by the new show at the Accademia Italiana, Italy by Moonlight, which sets out to convince the world that moonlight painting is a valid genre in its own right.

That is an arguable contention, but it is difficult to argue against anything that brings together such a delightful collection. Whether or not the new definition adds much to human comprehension, it undoubtedly does encourage us to see many paintings in a new context. The exhibition is arranged more or less chronologically, and so begins, naturally enough, with a number of religious paintings from the 16th and early 17th centuries. These include many Agonies in the Garden, which clearly took place at night, as well as a couple of Nativities (the Magi were, after all, led by a star). Walks to Emmaus and St Peter Denying Christ: all arguably night-time subjects.

The point the show makes is that they have never before been considered primarily in terms of the time of day they represented. That is a perfectly fair way of looking at them, and keys them in to a whole Italian tradition, and developing skill, of representing night. The lighting effects of Loto's "Saint Peter Weeping at his Denial

John Russell Taylor
reviews a show of
nocturnal paintings,
and (below) visits the
Saatchi Collection

of Christ" are dramatic to the point of being theatrical, and the virtuosity is impressive even if the subject provokes little excitement. Lello Orsi's "The Walk to Emmaus" should be familiar, since it belongs to the National Gallery, but has never before stood out so strikingly as when the public is invited to regard it primarily as a night-piece.

Once the angle of vision is established, it is not difficult to move on to paintings of classical subjects featuring moonlight (Claude's "Coast View with Pegasus and the Origin of Coral", commissioned in 1673 by an Italian cardinal, is the outstanding instance here), and then to straightforward secular landscapes. From Claude to Canaletto would normally seem like an enormous leap, but their shared skill at painting dusk, dawn and the moonlit night brings them effortlessly into the same gallery. The amazing Canaletto "Nocturnal View of the Facade and Piazza of St Peter at Rome" is open to question on various grounds: whether it is by Canaletto at all, or Canaletto with pupils, or even whether it is not a drawing on paper "coloured" later

by another hand. But there can be no argument about the effect it makes, with its monumental massing of architectural detail and its unearthly light.

The Romantic movement brings in banditti, ruined seaside colonnades and sailing ships wanly at anchor. But already the need to provide souvenirs of the Grand Tour - views of Naples, Vesuvius, Venetian carnivals and suchlike - is reshaping the profession of the native Italian artist, as well as encouraging foreigners to try their hand. Several pictures could be regarded as pendants to the show of Neapolitan views recently at the Accademia, notably William Havell's dramatic "Eruption of Vesuvius" of 1828-29. Ippolito Caffi's moonlit scenes of fireworks in Venice use the pyrotechnic element to introduce to the genre an unaccustomed brilliance of colour. Friedrich Nerly's "Moonlight over the Piazzetta" even adds a little illusion of the kind most familiar in portraits the eyes of which follow spectators round the room; this time it is the shadow of the column which seems unaccountably to change position.

The show works triumphantly. If moonlight becomes these pictures, it may be no more than an accident of selection. But equally, it makes the visitor observe a little more closely, that must be good.

Italy by Moonlight: The Night in Italian Painting 1550-1850. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071 235 3474) Tues-Sat 10-8, Sun 2-5.30, until March 2.



Moonlight illusion: Friedrich Nerly's haunting "Moonlight over the Piazzetta", with "moving" shadow

ALBUMS: ROCK

Still wild at heart

Chris Isaak: *Wicked Game* (Warner Bros WX408)
David Lee Roth: *A Little Ain't Enough* (Warner Bros 7559-26477-2)

WELL before director David Lynch and composer Angelo Badalamenti settled on the idea of a twanging guitar with a retarded metabolism as the leitmotif for *Twin Peaks*, Chris Isaak had perfected a similar setting for the melancholy tenor of his songs. Thanks to Lynch, who incorporated "Wicked Game" in the soundtrack of his film *Wild at Heart*, Isaak enjoyed a hit single. Now comes *Wicked Game*, the album, a timely compilation intended to introduce his under-exposed back-catalogue.

Isaak's strength is his ability to fuse the traditions of great balladeers such as Roy Orbison with the romping surf twang of vintage instrumental groups such as the Ventures. The two aspects play off against each other, enabling him to indulge his powerful and versatile voice, secure in the knowledge that the gliding accompaniment will keep the songs buoyant.

Of several outstanding performances, "Blue Spanish Sky" is especially memorable for the way in which Isaak's brooding voice caresses the melody over gorgeously dappled textures of acoustic guitar. "You owe me Some Kind of Love", "Heart Full of Soul" and "Blue Hotel" (featured in Lynch's film *Blue Velvet*) are all of a more upbeat persuasion, but retain the aura of morose intensity.

There is no such air of windswept sorrow about Isaak's fellow Californian David Lee Roth, the hyperactive hoover who used to front the heavy-rock goliath, Van Halen. His dress sense may be tragic but his album, *A Little Ain't Enough*, is the relentlessly mopey chronicle of a man who carries his pistol loaded and cocked.

To be fair, the album is a more imaginative concoction than the bulldozing grind of the archetypal heavy rocker, and there are moments of genuine pizzazz. But Roth is no great singer, and while his personality is leavened by a streak of good-humoured showmanship, his material lacks a commercial edge.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Never mind the quality, feel the concept



Portrait of an artist: Cindy Sherman's "Untitled No 224"

Devotion shown by the Saatchi Collection to all that is bold and stark and newsworthy in contemporary art is not in question. As its contents are unfolded by artist, it is impossible not to be impressed by the seriousness of dedication, even for those who find the taste sometimes enigmatic or aberrant. Very likely, the newest selection, which features Richard Artschwager, Cindy Sherman, and Richard Wilson, will be preaching convincingly to the converted (no doubt few but the converted ever enter the portals anyway), and will otherwise run into a lot of questioning along the vested lines of "But is it art?"

All three artists are in their various ways conceptual. Artschwager and Sherman are American, Wilson British. Artschwager

and Sherman have something in common, in that they take a fairly ordinary, everyday activity (making furniture and taking photographs respectively) and twist its tail to produce quite bizarre and unexpected results.

Richard Artschwager actually worked for some years as a furniture designer, but eventually the artistic urge overcame him, and he began producing what can best be described as abstract furniture and sculptures which refer loosely to such forms as the chair, the table, the mirror, but are fantasised far beyond usability.

If this seems perverse, there is worse to come. Some of the earlier pieces are made out of wood, and at least offer a pleasing, living surface. But very soon Artschwager enters into a curious love-hate relationship with formica, eventually

covering all with surface sheets of the substance, sometimes in sickly pinkish-purple shades.

There is an undeniable curiosity-value in his work, and the most hostile must admit that, unlike so much constructivist/minimalist art, it is all beautifully crafted. But the value of the concept remains questionable, and it hard not to feel relief that he has turned increasingly of late to painting.

With Cindy Sherman's work, one is never sure which is the essential art-work: the photograph itself or the action recorded. Sherman dresses and makes herself up, and then places herself in a suitable context in order to be photographed. Virtually all her works are untitled, leaving the spectator to work out the significance of her appearing disguised as an effete Caravaggio youth, a Gothic ma-

donna (one plastic breast exposed) or a bearded Old Testament scholar.

The problem here is, how seriously are these pictures meant? The easiest way of receiving them is as camp fantasy, closer to John Waters than to Derek Jarman. But something about them seems to forbid such a light-hearted response. A few reward detailed study, reading every detail. But many of them wither under prolonged scrutiny: not sharp enough for parody, not intense enough for homage, they hardly reward a second look.

Richard Wilson has much closer psychological links to the surrealists. "High Rise", for example, takes what looks like a perfectly normal prefabricated greenhouse, and disorientates spectators by apparently thrusting it complete

through a solid brick wall, like some freak effect of an earthquake. "Facelift" takes the basic elements of a caravan trailer, but extends it into a fantastic proboscis as though the original has begun to melt. His most famous piece of all, "20:50", is the most eye- and mind-boggling. In effect it turns a whole room into a tank (very shallow, no doubt) of used sump oil which offers a surface so completely reflective that even while one knows perfectly well that it is there, the illusion that one is looking down into high-tech depths remains inescapable. Whether or not it is art, the way that the concept is realised takes the breath away.

Richard Artschwager, Cindy Sherman, Richard Wilson, Saatchi Collection, 98a Boundary Road, NW8 (071-624 8299), Fri-Sat 12-6, until July.

Ten faces for 2001. David Sinclair picks ten young promising rock acts which should last a decade

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Atlantic crossings

THEATRE-GOERS fondly remember the days when the Royal Court used to swap productions with the Public Theatre in New York. If a new company called Anglo American Theatre has its way, there will be similar theatrical traffic between Pittsburgh and the West End. Productions will be cast in London and New York, rehearse and open in the Steel City, then cross the Atlantic, conceivably returning to play the Big Apple. A revival of Middleton's *Women Beware Women* should be making the trip by the year's end, followed by a new American play, both with actors from each side of the pond. Meanwhile, the com-

pany launches itself in a smaller, more local way next Thursday, with the American actor Mel Taylor playing O'Neill's *Empire Jones* at the Offstage Downstage in north London.

Guitarist dies

STEVE Clark, of the heavy-rock group Def Leppard, was found dead in bed at his Chelsea home on Tuesday morning. The cause of death has yet to be determined, pending a coroner's enquiry. Thirty-year-old Clark was no stranger to the hard-living rock 'n' roll lifestyle, but his shy personality did not appear to adapt easily to fame. Despite their multi-million selling successes with albums such as *Pyromania* and *Hysteria*, Def Leppard have been a blighted band. Six years ago their drummer, Rick Allen, lost an arm when he was involved in a car crash on New Year's Eve.

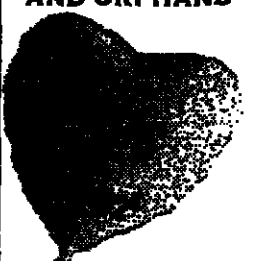
Leaping Swedes

STOCKHOLM this week became the fourth city in Europe to have a theatre dedicated entirely to dance, following Lyons, The Hague and Paris. Called simply the House of Dance, it opens yesterday with a programme by the Cullberg Ballet, including Mats Ek's controversial reinterpretation of *Giselle*, which has been set in a madhouse. Sixteen international and Swedish companies are announced for the first season running until May 31. Besides the big theatre there is a studio for experimental work. The Stockholm Dance Museum is also moving into new premises.

Last chance...

AFTER nearly a year at the Globe Theatre (071-437 3667), the overweight nanny will be falling into the swimming pool for the last time tomorrow. *Man of the Moment*, Alan Ayckbourn's sharp comedy (No 35 in the canon) confronts a former bank-robbler turned TV star with the man who recklessly foiled his raid on a Purley bank 17 years earlier. Brilliantly combining laughter and blasts at media values with lucid shafts of wisdom, the play has something of the urgency of a non-religious Graham Greene, searching for the heroism in undervalued men.

A GALA FOR ROMANIAN AIDS BABIES AND ORPHANS



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"PROCEED WITH THE SALE, MISS CORBISHLY"
murmured the Chairman, weeping gently into his mint julep.

It was an unusual day at the Gallery. Firstly, the Chairman's customary fortitude (ie. tumour) resisting any form of sale was not forthcoming when Miss Corbishly touched upon the subject. Secondly, he was drinking mint julep instead of his normal brandy and soda. The weeping is not unusual, especially if he's had a bad day at the races or, as in this case, he's been to a showing of *Come With The Wind* the night before.

With a mint julep in one hand and a hankie in the other he wasn't in the mood to resist Miss Corbishly's plans for a sale. (We must get a list of performance dates, it could make life so much easier.) So by kind permission of David O Seznick, who frankly doesn't give a damn, and acknowledgements to the Chairman, we are proud to present our sale:

SALE NOW ON

ALBUSSON Needlework	5'11" x 3'7"	£750	£490
EMPIRE Needlework	5'10" x 4'1"	£825	£490
CABBAGE ROSE Needlework	5'3" x 5'7"	£1,500	£1,230
POSE Needlework	5'7" x 5'5"	£2,500	£1,400
LOVE LIES BLEEDING Needlework	14' x 10'	£1,250	£2,125
CHAINSTITCH BLACK BEAUTY	6' x 4'	£220	£115
DHURRIE	7'10" x 7'10"	£550	£650
BESSERABIAN VICTORIA	8' x 4'11"	£600	£590
BESSERABIAN BLACK	13'3" x 9'9"	£2,722	£1,975
LOIS MACHINE MADE	7'9" x 5'7"	£400	£290
RIBBONS & BOWS MACHINE MADE	7'10" x 5'7"	£444	£259
MORRIS LITTLE TREE (Tufted)	6'3" x 4'6"	£1,245	£430
ARTS & CRAFTS (Knotted)	7'4" x 6'2"	£2,500	£650
GEORGIAN (Tufted)	8' x 5'	£1,400	£960
TI RKISH ZIEGLER (Knotted)	10' x 6'7"	£2,700	£2,160

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— *De la*

- 6.00 TV-am
- 9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the travel show quiz 9.55
Thames News and weather
- 10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject
- 10.40 This Morning. Magazine programme on family matters presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Includes national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news headlines at 11.55 followed by national weather
- 12.05 Rainbow. Entertaining educational series for the young 12.25
Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
- 1.00 News at One with John Sutherland. Weather
- 2.10 A Problem Altered. Psychiatrist Dr Tom Burns counsels a young man who feels he cannot communicate with his parents 1.50
A Country Practice. Australian soap set around a rural community health centre
- 3.20 Smoker: Mercantile Credit Classic. From the International Centre, Bournemouth, Tony France introduces action from the first semi-final
- 3.15 News headlines 3.30 Thames News 3.55 The Young Doctors.
- 3.55 Utterly Brilliant. Designers Andrew Haslam and Wendy Baker show Timmy Mallett how to transform an old bedroom into an exciting room 4.15 Scooby Doo. Cartoon adventures 4.40 Fun House. Two teams of children compete in a series of slapstick games
- 5.10 Home And Away (1)
- 5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
- 5.55 The Day. A crucial 24 hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public
- 6.00 6 O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough and Joanna Sheldon. The guest is actor Roy Marsden, who plays Adam Dalgleish in tonight's P.D. James crime series *Devices and Desires*
- 7.00 The £64,000 Question. Bob Monkhouse hosts the game show with big money prizes
- 7.30 Coronation Street. The Rovers' regulars return. (Oracle)
- 8.00 Watching. Sparky comedy series starring Emma Wray and Paul Bown. (Oracle)
- 8.30 Surgical Spirit. Apeucous hospital comedy, starring Nicholas McAvilly as an imperious surgeon. Gillies Hospital is being invaded by crazy cravies and everyone except Simon Field is panicking. This is because he is writing a textbook for a large sum of money. (Oracle)



- 6.00 The Art of Landscape. Soft music and scenes of the natural world
- 6.20 Business Daily 6.30 The Channel Four Daily
- 9.25 Schools
- 12.00 Broken Silence. The documentary series about animal behaviour continues with a look at how animals find shelter for themselves (r)
- 12.30 Business Daily
- 1.00 Sasame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
- 2.00 Pet World. How to deal with disobedient dogs (r)
- 2.30 Film: Atomic Couriers (1984 by). Stirred cold war espionage thriller, with Tyrone Power as a diplomatic courier who becomes mixed up in the spy business. Directed by Henry Hathaway
- 3.15 Hamilton the Musical Elephant. Cartoon
- 4.30 Countdown
- 5.00 Not on Sunday. Includes an interview with Edmond Browning, presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States, and a close relay to the Courtenay to President Bush
- 5.30 American Football: Red 42
- 6.00 Happy Days. Classic American comedy series about high-school life in the Fifties
- 6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are boxer Chris Eubank, the Soviet Union's first pop star, Roman, and filmmaker Derek Jarman
- 7.00 Crime Del 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
- 7.50 First Aid. Veterinary surgeon, writer and television presenter Bruce Fogle reviews this year's Crufts dog show. Weather
- 8.00 Brookside. Earthy soapsie soap. (Teletext)

6.30 Travelogue
Wish With Wish You Were Here...? and Holiday '91
 setting in as the unofficial arms of the travel trade, a good to have a corrective to the brochure images of gorgeous scenery and golden beaches. Among tonight's items is an offbeat, downbeat and idiosyncratic view of Paris by comedian Pete McCarthy. A package tour *was* never like this. Instead of doing the rounds of the *puvre* and Notre Dame, McCarthy lingers on a Gallic kiss, makes numerous references to the Eiffel Tower and even has a little Eiffel Tower. A Fifites car. Magically the car comes to life and McCarthy hitches a lift. He travels first class on the Metro and wonders why his fellow travellers look so solemn. You don't find many solemn faces on *Holiday '91*. He lapses into cliché only once, when he starts talking about a "magical country. But he immediately subverts it by trying to start a supply.

- 9.00 *Cher's Concert Against the AIDS* (TV) In a Boston bar. (Teletext)
- 9.30 *Country Newsline*. Country music. (Teletext)
- 9.50 *The Great Plant Collection*. Plant hunter Roy Lancaster visits Bir Castle, County Offaly, and explores the vast collection accumulated by the resident Rose family. (Teletext)
- 10.00 *The Golden Girls*. Very American sitcom about four women of a certain age sharing a life in a home. (Teletext)
- 10.30 *One Night Stand*. Bob Nelson, American comedian Bob Nelson in a solo performance (r)
- 11.00 *The Word*. Michelle Collins, *Cindy in EastEnders*, visits Newcastle in a special singing. Other songs include past three "Gid of the Year". Kathy Lough, Sherrylyn Fenn, who plays Audrey in *Twin Peaks*, and singer Maria McKee in her first live television



2.00 **Crime: Night and the City (1950, b/w)**
 CHLOE: Jules Dassin made his name in the Forties with a trio of brutt thrillers notable for the strong use of real locations. But after *Brute Force*, *Naked City* and *Thieves' Highway*, Dassin was forced by the communist witchhunt to seek exile in Europe. In France he was to make *Pittini* and in Greece *Never on Sunday* but his first stop was Britain, where he directed *Night and the City*. This translated the semi-documentary style and bleak fatalism of his earlier work into the gritty streets of London for the first time in a crooked wrestling promoter (Richard Widmark) on the run from a gang led by the outsize Francis L. Sullivan. Gene Tierney, Googie Withers and Herbert Lom also feature in the Anglo-American cast. If the film is not entirely successful, Widmark's slippery slip is a memorable performance and the Thameside setting is a real local asset. Directed by the German-born cameraman, Max Groenke. Ends p. 1.50pm.

1.05 Film: *Barbarella* (1967). Jane Fonda stars in this adaptation of Jean-Claude Forest's adult comic strip about a sexy 41st-century space adventurer. It has become something of a cult film thanks to the surreal sets, the camp atmosphere and Fonda's strip-teases during the opening credits. It is basically a tale of good, in this appealing shape of Fonda, versus evil in the guise of Milo O'Shea, as the evil Durand-Durand. Directed by Fonda's then husband, Roger Vadim. Northern Ireland: (to 1.20am) Film: *Just Before Dawn*

100-17891-1

30 **A British Betrayal**
CH CHOICE: A year ago Lord Aldington won record libel damages from Count Nikolai Tolstoy after successfully refuting allegations about his part in the forcible repatriation of Cossacks and Yugoslavs at the end of the second world war. This film, a first production from the BBC's Contemporary Archive Unit, returns to the subject, planting together fragments in southern Austria in the spring of 1945. It examines why the British army defied Allied policy and sent some 30,000 people unwillingly back to Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Nigel Nicholson, one of the British officers involved, describes the episode as a shameful betrayal. Eyewitnesses speaking for the first time on television recall people being taken to their deaths together with thousands on bayonets and women and children prepared to plunge to their death in a fast-moving river rather than be sent back to Stalin.

30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman

30 **Darts**: Eamonn Holmes introduces action from the semi-finals of the Embassy world professional championship 12.15am Weather

ard

avora Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 3.35
country Ways 3.08 Reality's Rules 3.35
comedy The Top Secret Warrant! 4.35 The
most American Game Show 6.00 The Se-
bastian Shopping Channel 8.00 MTV 10.00
Lifestyle Jubilee

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

View the Marco Polo satellite.
7:00pm The Movie Show
9:30 My Friend Irma (1949) Two exes jerk
teen Martin and Jerry Lawler) become
hooked with a dizzy blonde
12:05 King Lear (1971) Starring Paul
Robeson as Shakespeare's
Hamlet
4:45 The Movie Show
7:00 Sales (1988) A Hispanic version of
my Darling
9:45 The Movie Show
10:00 Sales (1988) A Hispanic version of
my Darling
on a nuclear waste site brings the
means of mass invention to the
world. The highly Cullen (1989) A police
off (Dorcas Washington) learns that she
and is a prime murder suspect

York's power blackout of 1977 when
Bellevue mental hospital's back-up gener-
ators failed.

A family: The Great Outdoors (1988): A
lot of nudity means unlimited to spend
the summer holidays with relatives. Starring
John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. Ends at 3:15

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

View the Marco Polo satellite.
1:30pm SportsCenter 3:30 Racing Today 9:00
Racing 3:30 SportsCenter 4:00 National
Hockey League 5:00 Texas Championship
Racing 6:00 SportsCenter 6:30 National
7:30 SportsCenter 8:00 Main Event: Basket-
ball - Kingston in Europe 10:00 SportsCenter
12:00 Title is the Sports Channel 11:30
Racing Today 12:00 SportsCenter 12:30am
Australian Open Tennis

THE POWER STATION

View the Marco Polo satellite.
7:00pm Twenty-one hours of music

...AFRICA CRISIS... AFRICA CRISIS... AFRICA CRISIS...

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[illegible]

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-25
- MOTORING 27
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 28
- LAW 29
- SPORT 30-34

Market likely to open on Sundays for the first time if hostilities break out

Lloyd's on war alert for high premium rises

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Lloyd's insurance market is standing by for massive increases in premium rates for shipping entering the Gulf area if war breaks out in the Middle East.

The market may also open on Sundays for the first time, if the circumstances demand.

Tanker cargo and hull rates for the region have already spiralled to between 1 and 2 per cent of the insured value since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August. These are about 35 to 70 times the rates paid on comparable shipping in the Atlantic.

Stephen Merrett, a marine underwriter and chairman of Lloyd's Underwriters' Association, which represents the Lloyd's marine market, said it was still impossible to predict

just how high rates would rise. During the Iran-Iraq war, however, when war damage shipping claims exceeded \$1 billion, rates rose more than 10 per cent at the height of the hostilities. The Lloyd's market suffered substantial losses during the ten-year conflict.

Mr Merrett said that the market was reducing forward cover available to ship owners because of the uncertainty surrounding the military circumstances after the United Nations deadline for a Iraqi withdrawal on January 15.

Some vessels are due to enter the Gulf in the next few days, however, and are expected to be in the region beyond the deadline. Mr Merrett said: "Customers are not yet paying huge prices on the possibility of war. Neither party is committing itself any

further than they need to. The problems will arise where there are policies set for periods beyond the deadline." One possibility being considered by underwriters is the offer of premium rebates for ships entering and leaving the Gulf area safely.

The highest rates are likely to be set for the north and northwest waters of the Gulf. Cover for a wider area, however, including the eastern Mediterranean, is likely to soar if any conflict continues for more than a few days.

War risk rates have fluctuated substantially since the August invasion with the war risks rating committee announcing four upward revisions of rates and three reductions. Rates for the most at-risk areas in the Gulf are "held covered" and can be set only by negotiation between individual shipping companies and underwriters.

Rates will also increase for aircraft flying to and from the area and for airlines as a whole, in particular British and American carriers.

Underwriters have demanded detailed information from airlines about their contingency plans in the event of war, including security arrangements.

So far, only one claim resulting from the invasion has hit the London insurance market: the \$225 million claim by Kuwait Airlines to cover the loss of two-thirds of its fleet confiscated by Iraq on the first day of the invasion. No claim has been submitted for the British Airways aircraft that landed in the emirate on the same day.

If war does break out, preparations are being made for Lloyd's to open on Sunday for the first time. Alan Lord, chief executive of Lloyd's, said policyholders may "wish to review the extent and nature of their insurance cover" should hostilities begin.



On war footing: Lloyd's executives Stephen Merrett, Alan Lord and Bob Hewes. They said yesterday they do not know how much rates will increase

Oil prices stay volatile over Gulf uncertainties

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL prices were volatile amid fears that weekend peace talks will end without resolving differences between Iraq and America.

American crude oil futures, which swung violently on Wednesday after the breakdown of talks in Geneva, opened higher as war jitters spread through the market. February crude traded up \$1.09 at \$28.35 a barrel, but there was no repeat of the previous day's panic buying.

London was calmer as leading players waited on the sidelines. February Brent was talked around \$26.85, some 50 cents above Wednesday's American close. The uncertainty fed through to the spot market for oil products.

THE BOMB
US dollar
1.9060 (-0.0210)

German mark
2.9210 (+0.0064)

Exchange index
93.8 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKETS
FT 30 Share
1650.3 (-18.2)

FT-SE 100
2108.7 (-20.2)

New York Dow Jones
2491.58 (+21.28)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave
23047.36 (+78.09)

Closing Prices ... Page 25

INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13 1/2-13 3/4%

3-month eligible bills: 13 1/2-13 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4-6 1/2%

3-month Treasury Bills 6 1/2-6 3/4%
30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCY
London: New York
£: \$1.9060
£: DM1.5315

£: DM2.9210
£: Sfr1.2549
£: Sfr1.2549

£: FF16.1945
£: Yen134.67
£: Index: 93.8
£: Index: 93.8

£: ECU1.42423
£: ECU1.42423

GOLD
London: Gold
AM \$380.50 pm \$380.55
close \$380.40-380.90 (\$204.50-205.00)

New York: Comex \$381.85-392.35

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Jan) ... \$26.30 bid (\$26.25)
* Denotes latest trading price

FOUR STAR RATES
Australia \$ 2.55
Austria Sch 2.50

Belgium Fr 2.50
Canada \$ 2.53
Denmark Kr 11.75

Finland Mkr 10.30
France Fr 6.54
Germany DM 3.05

Greece Dr 15.45
Hong Kong \$ 7.15
Ireland Pt 1.14

Italy Lira 2.50
Japan Yen 11.75
Netherlands Gld 3.25

Norway Kr 11.75
Portugal Esc 2.50
South Africa Rnd 5.40

Spain Pta 16.66
Sweden Kr 11.75
Switzerland Fr 2.50

Turkey Lira 16.66
USA \$ 1.00
Yugoslavia Ddr 23.00

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Retail Price Index 130.0 (November)

Germany's trade surplus heavily cut by unification

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

GERMANY'S unification has almost wiped out its trade surplus, it has emerged. The trade balance for West Germany in November was only DM762 million, compared with DM10.6 billion in November 1989, according to the latest figures.

The fall, which took many economic analysts by surprise, results mainly from a rising import bill, up from DM44.4 billion to DM54.1 billion. These figures reflect the shortage of capacity, most notably in the metal industry, which had been working at more than 95 per cent of capacity in some parts of the country. Car buyers, in particular, are already experiencing waiting lists of months. The overall level of exports fell only marginally to DM54.8 billion.

East Germany recorded a trade surplus of DM2.5 billion, but these figures are regarded as irrelevant since they included orders from other Comecon countries, orders that are now in strong decline.

Rolf Schneider, senior economist at Dresdner Bank, said a fall in the surplus was widely expected but "it is surprising that it is happening so fast". The Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Berlin, one of the country's leading economic institutes, predicts a fall in the current account surplus from a record DM104 billion in 1989 to DM40 billion this year on the optimistic assumption of an average oil price of \$20 per barrel, or a fall to DM20 billion if the price should average \$30 per barrel.

Heiner Flaßbeck, senior economist at DIW, said: "A trade deficit for 1992 can no longer be excluded, particu-

larly if the overheating in the economy continues." The Bundesbank has been predicting a fall in the surplus and previously suggested that it would prove a beneficial adjustment.

The speed of the fall, however, is likely to increase fears over continued tight monetary policies. There is additional uncertainty over the state of public finance after the Bonn federal government this week failed to reach agreement with the Länder over the share of the costs necessary to restructure the eastern part of the country.

● Inflation in western Germany averaged 2.7 per cent last year, a fall from 2.8 per cent in 1989.

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larly if the overheating in the economy continues." The Bundesbank has been predicting a fall in the surplus and previously suggested that it would prove a beneficial adjustment.

British Coal sales to slump

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal Corporation will lose all but a fraction of its £300 million a year industrial market over the coming decade, but its profitability will benefit. Those are among the conclusions of the first published study of Britain's industrial coal market, carried out by McCloskey coal information service.

Details revealed by the report will come as a shock to many of British Coal's customers. It shows that some pay 50 per cent more than others for exactly the same quality coal.

Much of the coal sold by British Coal to cement manufacturers, paper mills and other companies appears to be sold at a loss, the study concludes. Gerard McCloskey, its co-author, says, typically, large industrial customers pay £32.50 to £35 a tonne at the pithead. That is well below the £39 to £43 a tonne paid by the two main electricity generators, PowerGen and National Power. It is also below the production cost of many British Coal pits.

Mr McCloskey says British Coal dominates the industrial market. Its 6.5 million tonnes of sales in 1989 accounted for 85 per cent of purchases by industrial customers. He believes its industrial sales will slump to just 1 million tonnes a year by the end of the decade.

The market itself will decline, primarily because of the need to cut emissions of sulphur dioxide. British Coal sales will be eroded by replacement of coal-fired plant by gas burners.

Mr McCloskey predicts coal imports will rise by more than 4 million tonnes a year by the middle of the decade. At least 1 million tonnes of coal will be displaced by gas.

British Coal is aware of the threat to its industrial market. The commercial director, Malcolm Edwards, made a new year resolution this year to pay closer attention to his customers.

City is pressed to buy power shares in the dark

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government is putting pressure on City institutions by requiring them to pledge to buy shares in the two electricity generators before the price is announced as a way of maximising proceeds of the £1.5 billion-plus sale to the Treasury.

Advisors to the float have unveiled the structure to be used to float the generators, National Power and the smaller PowerGen, on the stock market next month.

Among the unusual features are a minimum investment of £500 fully paid for a bundle of shares in the two, a so-called "back-end tender offer" under which some of the issue is auctioned to institutions and a "book-building" exercise to put together a portfolio of preliminary offers for the shares.

This last is likely to be extremely unpopular with the City, not least because it is combined with suggestions that the government may not now use primary underwriters, with a consequent loss of fee income.

Kleinwort Benson, the mer-

chant bank handling the issue, said yesterday that the pathfinder prospectus would be out on February 1 and the offer would close at the start of the next month. Investors would be offered a bundle of shares in each of the two companies, which would be floated at the same price.

There will be two instalments, the second in perhaps a year's time. The issue would be split along the same lines as the flotation of the 12 regional electricity companies last year, which would mean about a third would be offered to the public initially and another 20 per cent would go overseas.

The book-building, under which institutions will be asked to put in preliminary offers at different indicative prices, will take place ahead of impact day, expected to be February 22, when the actual price will be revealed.

About 15 to 20 per cent of the total issue will be held back for the tender, which will take place once the offer has closed.

"It will be very unpopular," predicted John Wilson, elect-

ricity analyst at UBS-Phillips & Drew. "Nobody likes getting into an auction process. They will have to make a guess at fair value."

David Clementi, a Kleinwort director, said book-building was "a more formalised process" of what already happened with privatisations that would allow the government to assess institutional interest.

Investors who have already registered with the Electricity Share Information Office under the distributors' float will qualify for incentives, to be announced next week, but probably in the form of a discount on the share price or bonus shares to encourage long-term investment. Others can still register for the incentives.

The publicity campaign started last night with the first showing of the television advertisement.

The Electricity Share Information Office, 0272-272722.

Electricity assurance, page 20
Comment, page 21

LIG plans cash call of £61.6m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LONDON International Group, the surgical products and photoprocessing concern, plans a £61.6 million rights issue despite possible Gulf war implications for the stock market.

Alan Woltz, LIG's chairman, believes the company is strong and exciting enough for the market to absorb a rights issue of one-for-four at 190p a share. But for Gulf events, the rights issue might have been structured on a 15 per cent discount rather than the 20 per cent that LIG decided on.

Mr Woltz said the money would be used to meet redemption payments on a £30 million convertible bond issue that holders were likely to want to redeem in March 1992, and would give LIG extra financial muscle.

LIG shares slipped 23p to 216p yesterday. LIG plans to pay a 6.25p final dividend making 9.25p (8.35p) for the year ending March, and forecasts pre-tax profits (before supplementary interest charges) will be at least £38 million (£36.5 million).

Tempus, page 21

Lilley hopeful Gatt talks will succeed

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, believes a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round talks on freer world trade is possible.

The round, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was due to end last month but stalled because of continued disagreement between the European Community and America on agricultural supports.

Mr Lilley believes that the EC will be expected to make more cuts, but that the Americans will also have to reduce farm subsidies and give ground on trade in services.

In Bonn, Lorenz Schomerus, Germany's chief trade negotiator, said the threat of war in the Gulf had improved chances of a successful outcome to the round. But the talks could still fail if America tried to force the EC into "unconditional surrender".

Mr Lilley said in London yesterday he believed there was a "60-40 chance" of a successful outcome, as France

was now indicating a more flexible approach over farm subsidies and the German elections were out of the way. It was mainly French and German unwillingness to agree to further cuts in farm subsidies that stalled the talks.

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Saatchi to swap debt for equity

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Saatchi & Saatchi Company, the advertising group, dropped 10p to 24p as the company finally unveiled its long-awaited financial reconstruction.

As expected, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, Saatchi's chief executive, and SG Warburg and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), its advisers, have come up with a complex swap of debt for equity.

Holders of the company's two classes of preference shares will be invited to swap a substantial proportion of their holdings for new ordinary shares. If the proposals gain acceptance at meetings scheduled for March, existing ordinary shareholders will see their stake diluted to 35 per cent of the enlarged equity.

As a sign of his confidence in the restructuring, M Louis-Dreyfus is to underwrite a £5 million subscription for new shares by senior management. This will include money from the founders, Charles and Maurice Saatchi.

As some consolation, existing ordinary shareholders will be able to

subscribe for up to £10 million of new ordinary shares at whatever price senior management pay for them. M Louis-Dreyfus indicated the price paid by management would be determined by the market. A premium was not likely.

Additional bank finance also features. DLJ will provide a £20 million bridging loan and will receive warrants to subscribe for up to 4 per cent of Saatchi's enlarged share capital once the reconstruction is approved. The company is negotiating a £20 million increase to its existing borrowings and is also seeking an extension to bank facilities that fall due at the beginning of 1993.

The aim of the restructuring has been to remove the now notorious put option carried by the 6.75 per cent Euroconvertible issue. That issue was used to raise £176 million in June 1988 to pay for the ill-fated expansion into management consultancy in America. To attract investors, Saatchi had to guarantee to buy back the issue at a profit if the underlying shares did not meet certain

performance targets. The shares did not, leaving the company facing a bill of £212 million when the option becomes exercisable in July 1993. That problem is removed by the new proposals, which also reduce total group debt from £511 million to about £275 million.

Holders of the Euroconvertible will be offered three new Europreference shares and 16 new ordinary shares for every ten old preference shares. The new Europreference shares would have a coupon of 9 per cent and, unlike the issue they replace, will not be convertible. The offer would give existing Europreference holders about 50 per cent of Saatchi's expanded ordinary equity.

Domestic preference shareholders will emerge with about 11 per cent under a separate offer, giving them five new preference shares (bearing the same 6.3 per cent coupon) and 12 new ordinary shares for every ten existing shares.

Europreference shares were unchanged at 39p on the announcement. The domestic issue rose 1p to 12p.



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Norton chief resigns

PHILIPPE Le Roux, the chief executive of Norton Group, has resigned after failing to produce finance for his allocation in the company's £7.55 million rights issue.

A company spokesman said Mr Le Roux had been unable to pay for his 2.6 per cent allocation because a loan facility he had arranged to cover the £200,000 payment had been withdrawn. The spokesman said: "He resigned because he felt compromised in his position, as chief executive."

Mr Le Roux will be a consultant to Norton and is seeking other arrangements to finance his allocation. Earlier yesterday, shares in Norton, which is being investigated by the DTI, had been suspended because of the continuing uncertainty surrounding the company's financial position.

The company had not received about £2.5 million of the rights issue proceeds from TC Coombs, the underwriter, which were due for payment last Friday. The suspension was lifted four hours later when Coombs paid the outstanding sum.

Torex final cut

Torex Hire has halved its final dividend to 0.8p, cutting the total to 1.6p (2.4p). Pre-tax profits fell from £907,000 to £436,000 in the year to end-October despite turnover rising from £4.59 million to £5.04 million. Earnings per share fell from 6.42p to 3.11p.

Dewhurst ahead

Dewhurst, the electrical control equipment manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits from £969,000 to £1.02 million in the year to end-September. The total dividend is 1.7p (1.47p). Earnings per share were 3.99p (5.79p).

SEP slips

SEP Industrial Holdings' pre-tax profits fell from £2.49 million to £2.33 million in the year to end-September. The total dividend is 1.04p (1p) on earnings per share of 3.07p (3.8p).

Oyston warning

Owen Oyston, chief executive of Trans World Communications, the USM radio group, has given warning that 1990's profits will be lower than expected after an estimated pre-tax loss of £600,000 in the second half.

Engineering outlet sale gives Dan-Air a lifeline

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

DAN-AIR has sold its loss-making engineering base to FLS Aerospace, a Danish-owned company, for £27.5 million in a deal that should guarantee the survival of the airline.

Since David James took over as chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's holding company, ten weeks ago, he has made the sale of the engineering division a priority. He said yesterday: "This was the essential brick that I had to put in place before moving on to develop the airline business."

"The price we received comfortably exceeds the minimum I was prepared to accept and will now enable me to pay back some of the bank loans and so reduce interest charges considerably. It will work in the interests of both the airline and the engineering division, and by saving more than 1,600

jobs is good news for the economy as a whole."

Although the engineering base lost £400,000 last year, there was interest shown from around the world in the hangars and facilities at Gatwick, Manchester and Lasham, in Hampshire. For a while, Cathay Pacific seemed to be the front runner but dropped out as the price rose.

The deal with FLS was signed at 3am yesterday, and Mr James and senior officials from FLS toured the bases to reassure workers that no redundancies were planned and that the base could even expand its operations.

The name Dan-Air Engineering will remain and the airline will continue to have its aircraft maintained in the bases for at least three years.

FLS Aerospace, which is part of the FLS Group, Denmark's largest industrial company, said the acquisition was part of its overall strategy to develop the aircraft support sector of aerospace on a global basis. It already owns Brooklands Aerospace, manufacturer of the Optica scout aircraft.

Technically, the deal must be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting. Under the terms of the agreement, £15 million will be paid immediately with the balance to be paid on formal completion.

Mr James said: "It means we have cracked the fundamental problem with Dan Air, which was that it had too big an engineering operation for its size. Now, with our balance sheet strengthened and the reduction in bank loans we will be able to concentrate on the airline business development plan with a full review of our route structure and equipment aimed at maximising yields."

It is expected that Dan-Air will now concentrate on developing its scheduled services, which have proved popular among business travellers. All charter contracts will be honoured.



Bad debts: Sir Nicholas Goodison and Don McCrickard still confident yesterday

TSB down 12% as bad debt provisions soar to £261m

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A 184 per cent increase in bad debt provisions and heavy losses at Hill Samuel caused a 12 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £312 million at the TSB Group in the year to end-October.

The bank's bad debt write-off of £261 million was higher than most forecasts among City analysts. TSB's corporate division, which includes Hill Samuel, the merchant banking subsidiary, was worst hit. Provisions of £156 million forced it into a £40 million loss, down from a profit of £61 million.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, blamed the fall on the economic downturn. He

gave warning that he saw no prospect for an early recovery. "There is hope at the end of the tunnel," he said. "The economy will recover but not quickly."

TSB increased its full-year dividend by 10 per cent to 6.4p, but Sir Nicholas gave warning he would halt any further increases until trading results improved.

TSB's figures were flattered by a £34 million pension holiday. The group also suffered an extraordinary loss of £80 million on Target, the life assurance subsidiary it sold to Equity & Law.

These provisions masked strong performances in the group retail bank and investment divisions, which have undergone extensive restructuring in the past year. Profits in retail banking rose 40 per cent to £258 million. The bank reduced staff by 4,000 to control costs.

The insurance and investment division's profits increased 37 per cent to £114 million due to a strong flow of new business at the TSB Trust Company.

Don McCrickard, the chief executive, said the losses in corporate banking showed the difficulties Britain's small businesses are facing.

"These figures still give us nightmares," he said. "The consequences of the recession are rather more severe than the government believes or is prepared to accept."

Tempos, page 21

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Valin Pollen hopes as VPI calls in receivers

VPI GROUP, the owner of the investment and public relations group Valin Pollen, has called in the administrative receivers. But there are strong hopes that there may soon be an overseas offer for Valin Pollen. The receivers, Price Waterhouse, were optimistic about prospects for the subsidiary, which was brought into receivership largely because of the burden of debt carried by the parent company.

The most likely bidder is thought to be Omnicom, the unquoted American company that is one of the largest communications groups worldwide. Howard Lee, chief executive at Valin Pollen, said he and his colleagues welcomed the receivership, as it finally removed the onerous burden of group debt. VPI was the subject of a rescue bid last year from Tranwood, the merchant bank.

SelecTV goes back to black

SELECTV, the USM television production group, is back in the black with a pre-tax profit of £85,000 in the six months to end-September (£183,000 loss). Turnover surged from £13,000 to £4.26 million, aided by the screening of the *Birds of a Feather* comedy series. Earnings per share stood at 0.13p (0.28p loss). As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Recovery at Beaverco

BEAVERCO, the USM-quoted garden furniture and noise control company, has returned to the black, with pre-tax profits of £207,000 for the six months to end-September. The company made losses of £49,000 for the same period in 1989 and recorded a deficit of £177,000 for the year to end-March 1990. There is no interim dividend (1.9p).

Neotronics at £2.7m

NEOTRONICS Technology, the gas detection and analysis equipment manufacturer, has lifted its final dividend to 1.6p (1.2p), making an improved total of 2.4p (1.8p) for the year, after a 45 per cent advance in profits. Pre-tax profits jumped from £1.87 million to £2.71 million in the year to end-September, on turnover ahead 21 per cent from £12.8 million to £15.6 million, with 70 per cent of sales overseas.

Paul Godley, the chairman, said the current year has started promisingly, with sales and orders ahead of the previous year. Earnings per share rose from 4.71p to 6.98p. There was an exceptional charge of £240,000, mainly relating to management restructuring.

Dublin builder suffers slump

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Abbey, the Dublin-based builder engaged in house-building in southern England, slumped from £247,000 to £67,000 (£61,300) in the six months to end-October, as margins continued to come under pressure. Earnings per share fell from 0.72p to 0.1p. Once again, the company is not paying an interim dividend.

PWS raises figures 44%

PWS Holdings, the Lloyd's reinsurance broker that was the best-performing UK share in 1990, raised pre-tax profits 44 per cent to £2.3 million for the year to end-September. Earnings per share rose 34 per cent to 8.2p, while gross revenues fell slightly to £17.8 million (£17.9 million). A final 2.2p dividend (1.5p) makes 3.5p for the year (2.5p).

SIB proposes fee rise

THE SECURITIES and Investments Board has proposed an increase in its fee income of just under 10 per cent for 1991-2. The highest fee will be paid by members of the Securities and Futures Authority, to be formed by the amalgamation of the Securities Association and the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers. They will pay £3,500 compared with £1,150 for AFB members this year and £2,200 for TSA members.

Members of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation face a rise from £700 to £1,311 and members of Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association currently paying £1,950 will be charged £2,216.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	560.4	0.5	-33.6	0.4	-25.3	-0.2	-21.4
EAFFE	107.2	0.5	-38.5	0.3	-25.2	-0.2	-21.9
AS (free)	987.5	0.2	-37.9	0.0	-32.5	0.0	-28.5
Europe (free)	99.5	0.2	-36.0	-0.1	-32.6	-0.6	-26.5
Nth America (free)	582.0	-0.9	-23.5	-0.8	-20.6	-1.6	-9.4
Nth America (free)	126.2	-0.9	-22.8	-1.1	-20.2	-1.6	-8.6
Nth America (free)	404.7	1.2	-24.8	0.4	-11.0	0.4	-11.0
Nordic	1026.6	-0.1	-34.0	-0.2	-28.8	-0.8	-21.9
Pacific (free)	169.7	0.1	-27.9	0.0	-22.5	-0.7	-14.6
Pacific (free)	2142.3	1.0	-46.0	0.6	-39.7	0.3	-36.1
Far East	3107.2	1.0	-48.3	0.7	-40.3	0.3	-38.4
Australia	222.9	1.0	-35.8	0.3	-22.5	0.3	-24.0
Austria	1209.0	-0.7	-18.6	-0.5	-12.8	-1.4	-3.7
Belgium	668.8	-0.1	-32.0	0.0	-28.7	-0.8	-19.5
Canada	422.4	1.3	-28.7	0.4	-17.2	0.6	-16.7
Denmark	1032.1	0.7	-21.6	0.7	-16.9	0.0	-7.2
Finland	59.1	1.3	-48.8	1.1	-44.9	0.5	-39.3
(free)	82.6	0.2	-44.6	0.0	-40.4	-0.5	-34.4
France	582.3	-2.6	-30.5	-2.6	-26.1	-3.3	-17.7
Germany	672.7	0.7	-26.7	0.9	-21.5	0.0	-13.2
Hong Kong	1981.4	1.3	-11.6	0.2	4.2	0.6	4.7
Italy	251.2	-0.1	-34.8	0.0	-30.0	-0.8	-22.9
Japan	3257.7	1.0	-47.2	0.7	-41.4	0.3	-37.5
Netherlands	720.8	-1.1	-23.8	-0.9	-18.5	-1.8	-9.8
New Zealand	50.3	0.1	-61.2	-0.6	-41.9	-0.8	-42.2
Norway	1024.5	-2.6	-29.7	-2.6	-18.0	-3.3	-9.6
(free)	120.3	-2.7	-35.8	-2.6	-17.1	-3.4	-6.6
(Sing/Malay)	1430.6	0.3	-28.3	-0.5	-21.5	-0.4	-15.1
Spain	163.2	-1.5	-31.1	-1.5	-28.0	-2.2	-18.4
Sweden	1083.8	0.0	-38.2	-0.1	-32.7	-0.7	-26.9
(free)	157.5	0.8	-34.9	0.6	-29.1	0.0	-22.9
Switzerland	686.0	-0.9	-25.0	-0.9	-25.9	-1.6	-11.2
(free)	104.4	-1.1	-25.2	-1.1	-26.1	-1.8	-11.5
UK	628.6	-1.1	-12.8	-1.1	-12.8	-1.8	3.2
USA	385.5	1.1	-24.4	0.4	-10.5	0.4	-10.5

(Daily Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 2,837	Chubb 1,542	L&O 512	Royal Ind 5,077
ABD-York 917	Courtauld 686	Lloyds 782	Royal Ind 5,077
Anglian 185	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
ASDA 8,159	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
AS Foods 180	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
Argyll 823	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BAA 474	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BET 846	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BTC 2,217	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BAT 1,110	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
Barclays 1,087	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
Bass 652	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BICC 372	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BP 1,020	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
British Gas 565	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
Brown 367	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
Bunnings 1,105	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687
BT 2,881	De La Rue 177	Loxley 981	Sainsbury 1,687

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Company	Price	Company	Price
Adams Resources	37	Malaysian Capital	19	Wig Type App	184
Aberforth Smir Cos	97-1	Midland Radio	99-2		
Bradford Rias	148-7	Pittman	85		
CMW Group	28	Pollack	28		
Castle Cairn (50p)	31	Proteus Int	25		
ECU Tat	34	Saxon Healthcare	141		
EFM Java Tat	31	St James Place	62-1		
Edgemoor	91	Stratford IT	66-2		
Excellour Gp	44	Stand Platform	162-6		
Faber Plast	145	Tr Euro Gwth	84		
Golden Vale	787	Unicom	116		
Invergordon	550	Wig Type App	184		
Lavercrest	52				

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings January 7
Last Dealings January 18
Call options were taken out on: 10/1/91 Brent Walker, Crossroads OX, Eurotunnel Wts, Seacell & Seacell.
Puts: T. Cowie, Lax Service, Reuters.

ICA advice service for members

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

A SURGE in queries about professional ethics to more than 5,000 a year has led the Institute of Chartered Accountants to set up an anonymous free advice service for members, staffed by lawyers and accountants.

The Chartered Accountants' Advisory Service on Ethics (CAASE) is aimed at members working in accountancy practices, and joins an established ethics advisory service for chartered accountants employed in business.

Where crime is suspected, members seeking advice will be helped to decide if disclosure would be in the public interest, in which case accountants are protected from obligations to confidentiality, and then advised which authorities to inform.

Most of the ethical queries, which have been rising at 15 per cent a year, cover professional independence, advertising, changes of auditors, handing over papers to investigators and disclosing malpractice and fraud. Much of the rise in queries stems from the progressive lifting of restrictions on advertising and publicity. Advice on ethical matters has always been available from the institute's professional conduct department, but a further surge in enquiries is expected for CAASE. The service for accountants in business has seen a fourfold increase in queries over the past five years.

Savills drops into the red as country house sales slump

By MATTHEW BOND

A SLUMP in country house sales has forced Savills, the quoted property agent, into first-half losses.

In the six months to end-October, the company made a pre-tax loss of £433,000, compared to a £2.9 million profit last time.

George Inge, the chairman, said the commercial and agricultural divisions were both profitable. The losses, he said, stemmed from its high quality residential division, which made an operating loss of more than £850,000.

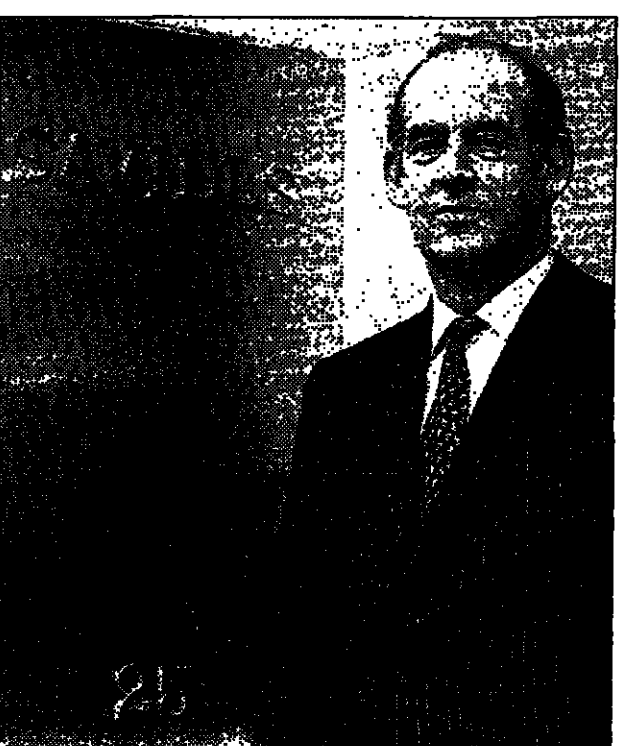
In response to the losses, the company is not paying an interim dividend (1.125p).

Despite a warning of substantially lower profits four months ago, the size of the losses and the gloomy outlook took the stock market by surprise. The shares fell 5p to 41p, a new low. Savills came to the market in July 1988, via a placing of shares at 125p each.

Mr Inge said the company had already closed one residential sales office and merged two others, with the loss of about 30 jobs. Across the group, total staff numbers over the six-month period had dropped from 740 to 690.

Mr Inge said: "Country house sales have been hit hard, not so much in terms of value, but in turnover, which is down 15 per cent."

He added that the picture was not much brighter in central London residential



Gloomy outlook: George Inge, chairman of Savills

sales, where a shortage of supply earlier in the year was now threatening to turn into a glut.

"There is now quite a supply of expensive houses, but not enough buyers to pick them up."

Although residential sales were being blamed for the company's first-half losses, the biggest fall in profitability came in the commercial division. Operating profits slumped from £2 million to

£559,000, a fall of almost 72 per cent.

Mr Inge pointed out that the company had minimal borrowings and had moved quickly in response to the deteriorating property market. He added that recovery still looked some way off. "There are few grounds for optimism in our business whilst we remain in this current cycle of high interest rates, economic recession and continuing uncertainty in the Gulf."

Mountleigh in deal with Japanese

By OUR CITY STAFF

MOUNTLEIGH, the property group, has finally sold a 50 per cent interest in its flagship redevelopment of the Criterion site on the south side of London's Piccadilly Circus.

Sogo, Japan's largest department store group, has paid just over £30 million for its share of the development. Sogo also plans to occupy all the retail space in the scheme, some 25,000 sq ft. The two companies will be equal partners, sharing all continuing expenditure.

In the current market the deal is a success for Mountleigh, now run by Nelson Peltz and Peter May. The £60 million valuation of the project is in line with figures first mooted over a year ago when prices were much better. Having risen 7p on Wednesday, Mountleigh's shares added a further 3p to 79p on confirmation of the deal.

Mountleigh acquired the Criterion in 1988, paying Trusthouse Forte about £20 million for the site, which includes the Lillywhites department store and the listed Criterion brasserie. Apart from the new retail space, the development will offer 120,000 sq ft of offices.

A spokesman for Sogo said: "We are convinced of succeeding in this prestigious development through our good partnership and hope to have the opportunity to co-operate on other projects in Europe."

Payout cut as First Technology makes loss

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FIRST Technology, the automotive equipment designer, security and safety group, has cut its interim dividend after diving into the red.

Regenerating interest in electricity

COMMENT

The predictable institutional howls over the decision to build a book of institutional demand ahead of pricing the two generators should not mask the fact that this could well be the best way yet of pricing public assets. But it is not without its inherent risks.

Energy secretary John Wakeham had warned that he was considering several "innovative" options this time, by implication in order to avoid another *debacle* like that surrounding the sale of the distributors last year, the echoes from which are still deafening our postbag.

In the event, most of the hard decisions barring the actual price have probably been made. The shares, now representing just 60 per cent of the companies since this week's abrupt climbdown, will probably be divided up along broadly the same lines as the distributors: 20 per cent will go overseas, 35 per cent to the public and the rest to British institutions, pre-clawback at least. Of this last portion, a little less than half will be the subject of a back-end tender offer.

In a novel arrangement which

leans heavily on the American way of handling public offerings, institutions will be invited to put in preliminary expressions of interest for different amounts of shares and at varying prices. These will be "morally binding", and any institutions that choose to put in silly prices in an effort to be smart risk being cut out of the subsequent firm placing. The generators will then come to the market at the same price, and probably at the same yield.

The book-building, therefore, can be seen as a hybrid between ordinary underwriting and a sale by tender. Kleinwort Benson, which presumably dreamed up the whole scheme, has effectively admitted that the City professionals cannot price public assets and must rely on the market to do so, although inevitably they blame the long but necessary gap in unstable market conditions between setting the price and the offer closing.

Mr Wakeham, should the

shares again go to a roaring premium, can blame the market itself. The City has to work a little harder for its fees and bears rather more of the risk. For the small investor, the subsequent tender offer, if higher, at least confirms that the offer price was reasonable. If the tender is lower, the shares go to the underwriters, and nobody gets in "cut price".

The institutions are unlikely to be able to operate in a sufficiently concerted way to call Mr Wakeham's bluff by all putting in unreasonably low expressions of interest. The danger is that they may all decide the game is not worth the candle and stay away, vowing to buy what they need in the after-market.

The real blow to Mr Wakeham's credibility is that all this makes a nonsense of his decision to retain a 40 per cent holding,

given that he is ensuring the market bids the highest possible price now. The scheme gives every indication that its inception predates the decision to sell only 60 per cent, and makes that look even more like an ill-considered action born out of political panic.

Polly pain

Auditors to the high street banks are sitting down with their clients and deciding how to account for last year's crop of corporate disasters in their 1990 accounts. Isolating those in the second half, the name on everyone's lips is Polly Peck which has debts of about £1.3 billion overhanging the market with no clear sign when the administrators will put a "for

sale" sign on the core assets to clear the decks.

Barclays is the only big UK bank without an exposure. The others — Lloyds, Midland, NatWest and Standard Chartered — have handed over more than £110 million between them to Polly Peck, with Standard Chartered being the most exposed. Rodney Galpin has some £50 million to worry about but at least some of this is secured against Del Monte assets, unlike the bulk of the remainder which is totally unsecured.

The Polly Peck administration is into its third month and the true value of the Cypriot assets is still a mystery. Sansui is soaking up too much cash because of a dwindling market share and the only assets that are being sold are the tiddlers such as Russell Hobbs and Le Shark clothing.

Against this backdrop, it is not difficult to imagine bank auditors asking the administrators at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte and

Touche Ross for advice on what their own advice should be, but really there is only one line of attack. Take it on the chin and provide for it all, now.

If there is some return from Polly Peck to be divided in the end, then hats can be thrown in the air and everyone can feel smug that they did the prudent thing in the first place. But some of the banks — particularly Midland and Standard Chartered — are suffering so badly on other fronts that the prospect of providing for Polly Peck as well is just too depressing.

What the administrators plan to do with the four core businesses — Del Monte fresh fruit, Sansui, Vestel and the Cypriot assets — is a question many of the company's 70 bankers are asking. The administrators are talking about keeping Polly Peck whole and presenting a survival plan to the lenders by a March 26 deadline.

If this is unacceptable, then it will be several more months before the proceeds of a fire sale flow through to bank coffers. Another sound reason to provide now rather than pay later.

Defence industry ready for action

WHEN the army's 7th Brigade, the Desert Rats, were retraining themselves for their posting to the Gulf, they used up six years' worth of normal peacetime training ammunition in two days' and one night's shooting practice.

The sheer scale of the military operation implied by that illustrates the need for industry, and especially the defence industry, to prepare for possible war — a need to which the defence industry has been responding.

Preparing for war has a gruesome ring to it. But with the United Nations' deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait now only a few days away, Britain's defences, including its supporting defence industries, are in the final stages of their preparations. Defence contractors, used to balancing the moral dilemmas inherent in their work, feel the current position particularly acutely. They do not want to be seen as warmongers, gloating in a bloodlust for war. But they know that if they are not ready, if their products are not up to scratch, then Britain will not be able to perform properly as part of the Allied forces in the Gulf — and that lives may be put at risk or lost.

Defence remains the world's second-largest industry, after oil. In Britain, defence alone accounts for 11 per cent of all industrial production. It employs one in ten workers in manufacturing.

Some of the principal defence suppliers, such as Vickers, Smiths Industries, Rolls-Royce, GEC, Dowty and British Aerospace, are among the cream of British industry. The Ministry of Defence is British industry's single largest customer. Defence is big business.

It is also sensitive business. Even in normal times, the impact of the MoD makes the defence industry reserved. With war possibly only a few days away, some defence analysts believe that, with the active encouragement of the ministry, defence companies will be even quieter.

Clive Forestier-Walker, defence analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, says: "Companies are being very circumspect about what they are doing, as you would expect. My view is that many parts of companies will have been asked to make sure their production facilities are up and running to build products if they are needed."

Brigadier Brian Lowe, director of the Defence Manufacturers' Association, agrees. "There will be a need to react



Nearing the deadline: Tom King, defence secretary

pretty quickly, to make sure that people on the ground get what they need."

Many defence companies have had employees in the Gulf for some time, making sure that the equipment they normally supply to the services is working, and to make any changes necessary to meet local conditions of climate and terrain.

Adapting vehicles and aircraft to operate in the heat and sand of the desert has been a priority. All Britain's combat aircraft in the Gulf, including helicopters, are propelled by Rolls-Royce engines. A substantial programme to fit all warplanes with turbine blades which are more resistant to sand abrasion has been completed.

The sharp increase in flying time, in training and combat-ready patrols, has also increased demand for com-

ponents with a limited life. The Saudi air force also flies Tornados combat aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce engines. — like those in the old Royal Ordnance factories, now owned by Bae — are understood to have been working overtime to ensure availability of sufficient supplies.

A second task is to ensure the tanks and aircraft have the right electronic equipment to combat the enemy's weapon systems. Electronics specialists from Britain's leading equipment manufacturers have been in the Gulf assisting with signals intelligence gathering and the development of appropriate electronics counter measures such as communications jamming.

Two of the largest planning problems facing defence industry managers over the last few months have been estimating the length of any possible war (most believe it will be over quickly — but not that quickly), and fitting any Gulf-led increase in demand into the proposed overall slowdown in defence spending which the changes in eastern Europe and the effective ending of the Cold War are engendering.

Some defence analysts, though, point out that any such change will not appear in defence companies' bottom lines for some years yet, and that the government's autumn statement showed there would still be £8 billion to be spent on defence for the next three years. "That's still a sizeable amount of money to be made by someone," one analyst said.

Many of the beneficiaries of extra work will be small firms. The handbook of suppliers represented at the annual British Army Equipment Exhibition is the size of a telephone directory. There will also be contracts to be won after any fighting: John Major, the prime minister, said during his Gulf trip this week that he hoped British building companies would be able to bid for some of the reconstruction work a freed Kuwait will need.

Some companies will, of course, lose out. Airlines have been hit by sharp increases in the cost of aviation fuel, and fear of terrorist reprisals for any fighting in the Gulf is likely to affect airline traffic volumes.

Industry generally, and not just defence companies, could be hit badly if oil prices are pushed up further by fighting — increasing both inflation and the recession.

But repairing and replacing military equipment if there is a war, and if it is drawn-out, will mean a great deal of further work for some companies.

The British Army of the Rhine has already been stripped of large stocks of spares for the Gulf, which will have to be replenished. And defence companies in Britain will have to be ready to react to developments. "The history has usually been that whatever you prepare for isn't what happens," says Brigadier Lowe.

"I don't think things have changed too much. You have preconceived ideas about what will happen and what will be required. And if it turns out rather differently, you have to respond to what happens — and quickly."

PHILIP BASSETT AND ROSS TIEMAN

TSB provides cause for concern

TSB Group's bad debt provisions of £261 million in the year to end-October, up 184 per cent, look bad enough, even after the recent softening campaign by bank chairmen.

But the headline number masks a severe deterioration in asset quality since the summer. The bank was forced to make specific writedowns of £185 million in the second half, against £71 million in the first.

The group's decision to provide against 2 to 2½ per cent of its domestic non-mortgage lending book has horrifying implications for the big four lenders, who report at the end of next month. If they have suffered bad debts on a similar scale they will need to set aside more than £3.4 billion on their domestic loans alone. Damage on this scale would drive Midland into heavy losses and make even Barclays' profits look slim.

Optimists hope that TSB's corporate borrowers have suffered worst than most, and that the corporate division's £40 million loss will not be repeated on a larger scale elsewhere. Hill Samuel, TSB's merchant bank, was lending heavily in the late Eighties, when margins were tight and the economic cycle was already beginning to turn.

But the bank avoided all the large public failures in 1990; only four of its provisions are worth more than £5 million, compared with Barclays' £100 million write-off against British & Commonwealth alone. So it is best to prepare for the worst.

There was much to admire in TSB's figures despite the lengthening shadow of bad debts. The 12 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £312 million is modest, given the severity of the recession. It was, however, flattered by the inclusion of a £34 million pension holiday and the removal of a £43 million loss from Target, the life assurance company which has been sold to Equity & Law.

The restructuring of the retail bank is showing instant rewards in particular. Profits were up 40 per cent to £258 million, despite higher provisions. TSB has reduced bank staff by 4,000 in a year, 1,000 more than it originally promised. Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, governs the group with a head office staff of 100, down from the 360 he inherited. As a result, costs have risen by 6 per cent, well below inflation.

TEMPUS

A 37 per cent rise in profits in the insurance and investment division meanwhile shows the continuing pre-eminence of the TSB Trust Company at cross-selling within the bank's branches.

TSB's renaissance under Sir Nicholas will soon grind to a halt unless the economy improves, and the bank has little confidence it will, as seen by the grudging 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 6.4p. The bank should struggle to make £360 million this year, putting the shares, at 132p, on a p/e ratio of 8. High enough, given the many economic uncertainties.

LIG

LONDON International Group certainly picked one hell of a day to dump a rights issue on the market.

Not 12 hours after the Geneva peace talks failed, and with less than a week before the possible outbreak of war, LIG announced it wants to raise £61.6 million net via a one-for-four rights issue at 190p.

On that basis, LIG faces a possible 21 per cent net earn-

ings dilution in 1991. Though a profits bounce might lift 1992 pre-tax profits to £47 million, net earnings would only be 18.5p and still shy of 1990.

LIG has, meanwhile, forecast a final dividend of 6.25p for 1991 to make 9.25p for the year, compared with 8.35p paid out in 1990.

The immediate impact of the underwritten issue is that gearing rises from 100 per cent to 24 per cent and the group's financial flexibility is restored.

LIG hints that there might be acquisition opportunities within its existing businesses. It also gave more details yesterday about the decision to give up Spanish wholesale processing operations.

LIG shares offer a prospective p/e of 14.2 based on likely 1991 net earnings of 15.2p a share. The p/e eases to 11.7 on profit hopes for 1992.

Over the past five years, LIG has registered a compound annual growth rate of 16.5 per cent in dividends and of 17.8 per cent in net earnings.

But the past is no guarantee of the future, and investors have until January 31 before making up their minds whether to follow their rights.

Throwing in the towel

MICHAEL Hingston, who founded Paragon, the public relations firm, ten years ago with three colleagues, and sold it to Sandwick for £9.75 million in April last year — with his own share stake worth, at that time, about £2.3 million — has thrown in the towel, or rather la serviette. Hingston, aged 42, a likeable and able figure, had been tipped by some for the top job at Sandwick in due course. But, turning his back on such ambitions, he has instead packed up his belongings, sold his Roehampton house and moved to the South of France with his wife, Julia — they married 13 months ago — where they will refurbish and provision their 44-ft ketch, moored at Port Vendres, in readiness for a round-the-world voyage. "We will be setting off next autumn and it will probably take two to three years," Hingston said before he departed. "It is something I have always wanted to do." Hingston, who in the meantime plans to do PR consultancy work from what was hitherto simply his French

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

holiday cottage, is confident of his sailing abilities. "From the age of 13 to 17 I was at HMS Conway, a naval training school in Anglesey, and then I went to sea with the merchant navy for three years, before becoming a journalist," he said. His round-the-world adventure will mean that he



'I hear they're selling it to pay for the TV campaign'

and Julia finally have a honeymoon, since their original plans had to be shelved when Kingfisher, one of his clients, launched its bid for Dixons. "We will eventually get to the South Sea islands after all."

Tsui aboard

IN A somewhat unusual corporate move, TT Tsui, chairman of Hong Kong's CNT Group and one of the colony's wealthiest men, has bought the local bus interests of Ensign Bus Services, which operate in East London and Essex. He has invested about £6 million in its fleet of 87 buses as well as 24 new Dennis-Dominator double-deckers. CNT Group, in addition to interests in paint, hotels and Rediffusion in Hong Kong, owns Citybus, which operates 100 air-conditioned double-decker buses in the colony and China. But in what could be an ominous sign for bus schedules in Essex and London's East End, Tsui ar-

rived late for a ceremony at a hotel in Brentwood, Essex, to launch Ensign's new Citybus. Tsui, an arts benefactor who has made six-figure donations to the Victoria & Albert Museum and the South Bank complex at Waterloo, blamed difficulties with his limousine. Even more ominous...

Return of Strone

STRONE Macpherson, who resigned as a director of Robert Fleming a year ago — he was previously president of Robert Fleming (New York) — has been resurrected by becoming full-time deputy chairman of Mitsui, the £24 million computer services company. Strone, aged 42, and of Scottish origin, has spent the past year gathering non-executive directorships, including two trusts belonging to River & Mercantile, a fund management group. In his spare time, he has been known to lead climbing expeditions in the Himalayas.

'Gobsmacked' at Norwich Union

THE secrecy that surrounded Norwich Union's press luncheon yesterday to unveil details of its bonus payments to with-profits policyholders, turned into something of a farce. For, with more than a million policyholders due to be sent letters of notification, all intended to arrive this morning, dozens of sacks of mail had been lined up in Norwich's main sorting office as early as Monday, so that it could be processed in time. But an overzealous postman — yes, such a person does exist — sent one of the sacks on its way three days early. And the net result was that some policyholders received their letters on Tuesday. "I was absolutely gobsmacked when someone I was talking to, who shouldn't have known anything about it, already knew what their bonus payment was going to be," admits John Garner, the Norwich Union spokesman. "We had tried to co-ordinate it so that policyholders, the media and our own staff received the news at more or less the same time."

CAROL LEONARD

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS OF 66 OFFICIAL WORLD CUP WINNERS 25th ANNIVERSARY RE-UNION



A marvellous and unique opportunity to entertain your clients or staff. All the players from England's World Cup winning team together with stars from TV and Cinema will attend the official World Cup winners 25th Anniversary Re-union Tour to take place in the following cities:

Newcastle, Tyne & Wear: Monday June 17th
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"This is your life" format, with all players on stage including video highlights from the 1966 World Cup.

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tables of 10 (£2,000 + VAT per Table) at the	Company Name	
location	Address	Postcode
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location		

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

INVESTMENT MANAGER

We are a well-known private group in Hong Kong with substantial investments worldwide. We are looking for an investment manager from a corporate or banking background with some fund management experience.

The ideal candidate will be in his 30's, having completed relevant tertiary education and with experience in cash management, foreign exchange and securities management. This experience should include foreign exchange and equity dealing.

The posting will be in Hong Kong. The Manager will be required to review external fund managers' investment strategies, assess their performance and be able to produce concise market, economic and performance reports and communicate effectively with senior management.

Salary for the above post will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please apply IMMEDIATELY giving full details, including present and expected salaries, a recent photo and contact telephone number to:

The Finance Director
Box 95638
Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Kowloon
Hong Kong

LANDING GEAR OVERHAUL FACILITY

Dowty Aerospace Aviation Services Pte Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dowty Group.

The major expansion of Dowty's facilities in Singapore and the establishment of a dedicated wide-body Landing Gear Overhaul Center, has created employment opportunities for the following positions:

MACHINE SHOP SUPERVISOR

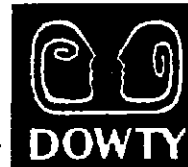
Interested candidates will need to have a strong machine shop supervisory background, with a minimum of 5 years' hands-on experience in milling, drilling, turning and grinding high strength steel. He must also have a working knowledge of CNC operated machines and possess basic programming skills.

PLATING SHOP SUPERVISOR

The successful candidate must possess the ability to supervise a multi-tank plating facility and have an in-depth knowledge of chrome, nickel and cadmium plating, with a minimum of 5 years' experience plating high strength steel. He must also be able to design and assist in the manufacture of anodes and fixtures.

A highly attractive compensation package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidates. Please write in with details of resume including current and expected salary and telephone contact no to:

The Personnel Manager
Dowty Aerospace Aviation
Services Pte Ltd
Tampines PO Box 339
Singapore 9152



UTS

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA

SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER

(Tenurable)

Ref No: E158/824

The School of Electrical Engineering is one of the largest in Australia, with enrolments approaching 1300 students, (including 100 postgraduates), most of whom study part-time. The School offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs including research degrees at masters and doctoral level. It occupies a major proportion of a modern high rise campus close to Sydney's central business district and enjoys outstanding industry links.

This challenging new position offers the opportunity to work at the forefront of technology in Computer Systems Engineering. The appointee will join a team establishing the new Computer Systems Engineering course and related postgraduate programs. He or she will have a role in the development and teaching of new subjects. The appointee is expected to contribute to the School's research program.

The appointee will ideally have a PhD. He or she will have experience in supervising postgraduate students, and in the development of new subjects. Previous lecturing experience is an advantage and competence in spoken and written communications is essential.

Although this is a full-time position, applications for fractional or part-time appointments will be considered.

Standard salary scale: Lecturer: A\$33,165-A\$43,086 p.a.
Senior Lecturer: A\$43,984-A\$51,015 p.a.

University policy permits over-award supplements, to a maximum of 50% in exceptional cases, within fixed-term contracts.

For further information, contact Professor Chris Drane, Electrical Engineering, on 021 218 8884.
Applications should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of three referees from whom referees reports may be quoted. These should be returned quoting the above Ref. No. by 28 January, 1991, to:

Senior Legal Counsel
Geneva, Switzerland

Required for multinational; the leader in while you wait retail services, in over 28 countries throughout the world (Europe, Far East and North America). Turnover of some US \$ 750 million per annum and growing, with some 10,500 personnel worldwide.

The successful candidate will:

- have excellent academic qualifications;
- have a minimum of some 7-8 years international commercial experience after qualification as a practising lawyer in a multinational environment;
- be aged 33-40, and a self-starter;
- have fluent English and at least 1 other European language, preferably German, to fluent level;
- ideally, some international tax experience.

The successful candidate will, within 1-2 years, be considered for the post of General Counsel. The legal work is of a highly varied nature - contracts, property, labour, law, intellectual property, M & A, taxation and all types of commercial legal advice to management and covers all countries in which the Group has operations. The successful candidate will join the small legal department team of 2 lawyers, reporting to the General Counsel.

A very competitive salary package will be offered to the successful candidate as well as relocation assistance to reflect this challenging position in an excellence-oriented environment with strong advancement prospects.

Apply in the strictest confidence to:

Peter A. Aspl, Barrister at Law
129, chemin du Petit Bel Air, CH - 1226 GENEVA, Switzerland

by mail only enclosing full CV, references, and handwritten 1 page summary (on unlined paper) as to why you (she or he) are the person for the position. Interviews will take place in London.

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The following Registrar/House Officer positions are available from the given dates:-

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Medicine - 29.04.91 (1x), 01.07.91 (x2) and 02.09.91 (1x)
Anaesthetics - immediately
Psychiatry - 01.07.91

Previous experience in specialties above preferred. Tenure 6 or 12 months. One way economy air-fare refundable on completion of 12 months service.

Other House Officer positions are available - 3 month rotating terms.
Application, curriculum vitae and 3 references addressed to Medical Superintendent, Rockhampton Base Hospital, Canning Street, Rockhampton, Queensland 4700, Australia or Fax (079) 221040 or phone (079) 316211.

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Our client is a leading retail group in Ireland with over 80 branches nationwide. The group is currently developing its retail information systems and is seeking to attract an experienced DP professional to lead this development. The position is based in Dublin.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 to 7 years experience in a leading chainstore retail environment and be familiar with POS systems, interstore communications, head office accounting, distribution and buyers software together with hardware options. Reporting to the board of directors and dealing with functional departmental managers, the ideal candidate will have excellent communications skills and possess the necessary enthusiasm, drive and experience to lead an existing team of software professionals and achieve deadlines within budget.

The remuneration package will reflect the seniority and importance of this position and full relocation expenses will be met.

Applications with full curriculum vitae to: P W O'Donnell, Office Systems & Company Limited, Management Consultants, 45 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, Ireland



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On behalf of several owners we are looking for senior deck officers & engineers for vacancies on Tankers, Gascarriers and Bulkcarriers.

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Experienced girl driver: 24+ with clean driving licence held 5 years required for large car hire company on Corfu from April to October. Interview London mid-Feb. Apply with C.V. snapshot and references to:

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International Rent-a-Car
20a Kapodistriou Street
Corfu 49100, Greece

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. BOX NO. DEPT. P.O. BOX 484, VIRGINIA STREET WAPPING LONDON E1 9DB

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for multinational EC - Registrations of ethical medicines.

To a young pharmacist/ natural scientist with related experience in a pharmaceutical company we offer very best working conditions in a dynamic environment.

Interested candidates are requested to send their application with complete biodata, copies of testimonials and photograph to P.O. Box 252, CH-6900 Massagno.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
Dept of Business Science:

Associate Professor/ Senior Lecturer in Finance

Applications are invited for the above post for appointment on a full-time, fixed period basis.

Applicants should be specialists in Business Finance and, in addition, appropriate university experience and/or experience in commerce or industry will be an advantage. The incumbent will be required to undertake advanced teaching, supervise graduate students, undertake research and, to a limited extent, assist in departmental administration.

A negotiable salary package includes attractive staff benefits such as medical aid, a pension scheme and a housing subsidy in certain circumstances.

Applicants should submit a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, not later than 30 January 1991 (late applications will be considered) to the Appointments Officer, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, Republic of South Africa. Telephone: (21) 650-2192; fax: (21) 650-2138. Further information (including details of salary package) may be obtained from the above, or from SASO, 2nd Floor, 16 Charles Street, London SW1Y 4GL.

The policy and practice of the University of Cape Town is to oppose discrimination on grounds of gender, race or creed in any sphere of university life. UCT is consistently protested, and continues to be, against apartheid laws and practices and is committed to working towards a just future for our country. Information on this is available on request.

C70382/1356-0



The Court of Justice of the European Communities in Luxembourg is organizing an open competition based on qualifications and tests, to constitute a reserve for future recruitment of English-language Typists (m/f) (ref. Open Competition n° C/7/90).

Salaries and social advantages are comparable with those offered by other international institutions.

Conditions to be satisfied:

- candidates must: ☐ be a national of a Member State of the European Communities; ☐ be less than 36 years of age on 8 February 1991; ☐ have more than 3 GCSE, «O» level or CSE (First grade) passes, 3 Standard Grade or «O» Grade passes (Scotland) or the Irish Intermediate Certificate or equivalent diploma, or 10 years' equivalent practical experience; ☐ have at least four years' appropriate practical experience; ☐ have a thorough knowledge of English and a satisfactory knowledge of one other official language of the European Communities.

More detailed information and the compulsory application form may be obtained on written request (ref.: Official Journal of the EC n° C 327 of 29 December 1990) to:

- The Information Office of the Commission of the EC
- Jean Monnet House, 8 Storey's Gate, LONDON, SW1 3AT;
- Windsor House, 9/15 Bedford Street, BELFAST, BT2 7EG;
- 4 Cathedral Road, CARDIFF, CF1 9SG;
- 7 Aha Street, EDINBURGH, EH2 4PH;
- 6 Moleworth Street, DUBLIN 2;
- Court of Justice of the EC, Personnel Division, L-2925 LUXEMBOURG.

The time-limit for applications is 8 February 1991.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN LUXEMBOURG

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from page 13

SCHOLASTECH LIMITED

IN THE MATTER OF THE INDEMNITY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY

WILL BE LIQUIDATED

ON 15 JANUARY 1991

AT 10.00 AM

AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE

IN LUXEMBOURG

ON 15 JANUARY 1991

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IN LUXEMBOURG

ON 15 JANUARY 1991

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 11 1991

UNITED SECURITIES **MONEY MARKETS**

MONEY MARKETS

pared with 1985 was down at 93.8 (day's range 93.7-93.8).

RATES		OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
1 month	3 month	Argentina austral*	11192.9-12127.8	Ireland	1.7430-1.7445
1.05-1.07	2.96-3.24	Australia dollar	2.682-2.670	Malaysia	1.7251-1.7255
0.10-0.11	0.33-0.35p	Belgian franc	n/y	Malaysia	2.7230-2.7250
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	Brazil cruzeiro	346.84-347.7	Australia	1.2328-1.2344
20-20p	50-50p	Cypriot pound	9.53-9.54	Denmark	1.1510-1.1530
3p-3.1p	5p-5.1p	Finland mark	6.6967-7.045	Sweden	5.7000-5.7020
30-30p	60-60p	French franc	305.55-306.55	Norway	5.9585-5.9590
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	Hong Kong dollar	14.8258-14.8758	Denmark	5.8940-5.8950
70-70p	40-20p	India rupee	34.71-35.11	West Germany	1.8300-1.8310
10-10p	30-30p	Kuwait dinar	305.55-306.55	Switzerland	1.2525-1.2535
10-10p	10-10p	Malaysia ringgit	5.1985-5.2013	Netherlands	1.9435-1.9438
3-2p	3p-3.1p	Mexico peso	5250-5260	France	5.6700-5.1850
3-3p	3p-3.1p	New Zealand dollar	3.2277-3.2330	Italy	1.61-1.61.0
par-1.0p	1.1-1.1p	Saudi Arabia riyal	n/y	Belgium (Cm)	31.30-31.35
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	Singapore dollar	3.3477-3.3515	Hong Kong	7.74-7.75
20-20p	1.1-1.1p	South Africa rand	6.47-6.48	Spain	157.30-157.50
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	U A E dirham	4.9219-4.9303	Portugal	96.42-96.52
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	Saudi Arabia riyal	n/y	Austria	10.76-10.78
1.1-1.1p	3p-3.1p	Switzerland Sfr	678 - 1.0yds Bank		

ECG: Fixed Rate Starting Spot Finance, Maleside 14.54p; Dec 31, 1980 agreed rates Jan 28, 1981 Feb 25, 1981 Scheme 1: 14.54p Scheme 2: 14.11p S 14: 15.06p. Reference rates Dec 1, 1980 Dec 1, 1981 Scheme 3: 14.54p Scheme 4: 14.11p Scheme 5: 14.54p Scheme 6: 14.11p

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES			
FT-SE 100	Period	Open High Low Close Volume	
Previous open interest: 24880	Mar 91	2180.0 2188.0 2180.0 2180.0 3362	
	Sep 91	2180.0 2188.0 2180.0 2180.0 0	
Three Month Sterling			
Previous open interest: 3574	Mar 91	87.00 87.00 86.85 86.82 33986	
	Sep 91	87.00 87.00 86.85 86.82 33986	
Three Month Eurodollar			
Previous open interest: 11600	Mar 91	92.80 92.73 92.85 92.74 4589	
	Sep 91	92.80 92.73 92.85 92.74 4589	
Three Month Euro Yen			
Previous open interest: 73167	Mar 91	90.50 90.50 90.41 90.41 6905	
	Sep 91	90.50 90.50 90.41 90.41 6905	
US Treasury Bond			
Previous open interest: 6950	Mar 91	94.13 94.16 94.03 94.11 3564	
	Sep 91	94.13 94.16 94.03 94.11 3564	
Long GR			
Previous open interest: 30000	Mar 91	95.25 95.25 95.22 95.22 17235	
	Sep 91	95.25 95.25 95.22 95.22 17235	
Japanese Govt Bond			
Previous open interest: 1200	Mar 91	96.85 96.10 96.85 96.10 32	
	Sep 91	96.85 96.10 96.85 96.10 32	
German Govt Bond			
Previous open interest: 73876	Mar 91	82.48 82.28 82.25 82.21 1272	
	Sep 91	82.48 82.28 82.25 82.21 1272	
Three month ECU			
Previous open interest: 1311	Mar 91	86.37 86.30 86.37 86.40 55	
	Sep 91	86.37 86.30 86.37 86.40 55	

Source: Baird & Co

COMMODITIES			
COCA			
Mar	881-890	Jan	595-605
Jul	893-898	May	595-594
Nov	895-900	Sep	595-594
Dec	753-751	Oct	595-594
Jan	753-751	Nov	595-594
Feb	753-751	Dec	595-594
Mar	753-751	Jan	595-594
Apr	753-751	Feb	595-594
May	753-751	Mar	595-594
Jun	753-751	Apr	595-594
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Jun	753-751	Apr	595-594
Jul	753-751	May	595-594
Aug	753-751	Jun	595-594
Sep	753-751	Jul	595-594

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day 1 in 150

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Share
1	Br Mond	Textiles		
2	Devon DA	Textiles		
3	Brown (N)	Textiles		
4	Bridley Inv	Textiles		
5	Russell (A)	Textiles		
6	Securap	Textiles		
7	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building Roads		
8	Landsec (as)	Property		
9	Tunstall	Electricals		
10	Song Estates (as)	Property		
11	Jonck Shippm	Industrial E-K		
12	Widg Office	Drapery Stores		
13	Eden	Textiles		
14	Tell	Textiles		
15	Alcon	Textiles		
16	Woodside	Oil Gas		
17	Fitch S	Finance-Prnt-Adv		
18	Br Ltd (as)	Property		
19	Trinity Int	Newspapers-Pub		
20	Brin	Building Roads		
21	Bodyshop	Drapery Stores		
22	Copas PLC	Building Roads		
23	Speybank	Property		
24	Com	Industrial A-D		
25	Water & Philip	Food		
26	TT Corp	Industrial S-Z		
27	Alcon Wwear	Industrial A-D		
28	Jonckroad	Electricals		
29	Beams	Drapery Stores		
30	Mowat (John)	Building Roads		
31	Rape	Industrial A-D		
32	Wellness (as)	Industrial A-D		
33	Br V	Textiles		
34	Brin	Textiles		
35	Waters Selection	Electricals		
36	Electon Home	Electricals		
37	Wick Water	Water		
38	Burgess Brick	Building Roads		
39	Flemo C&W	Industrial E-K		
40	Nest-BNA	Industrial L-R		
41	Roper	Industrial L-R		
42	T & S Stores	Drapery Stores		
43	BIC (as)	Electricals		
44	Pined Genar	Shoes, Leather		

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Fiona McLennan, of Hastings, East Sussex.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
SHORT (Under Five Years)								
1	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
8	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
12	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
22	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
23	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
28	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
29	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
32	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
33	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
36	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
37	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
38	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
39	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
40	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
41	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
42	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
43	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
45	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
46	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
47	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
48	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
49	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
50	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
51	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
52	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
53	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
54	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
55	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
56	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
57	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
58	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
59	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
61	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
62	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
63	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
64	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
65	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
66	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
67	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
68	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
69	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
70	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
71	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
72	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
73	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
74	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
75	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
76	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
77	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
78	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
79	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
80	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
81	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
82	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
83	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
84	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
85	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
86	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
87	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
88	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
89	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
90	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
91	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
92	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
93	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
94	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
95	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
96	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
97	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
98	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
99	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
100	77.5	77.5	100	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS									
8595	8224	new	0%	1980-88	10%	---	8.09	10.670	
977	8336	new	10%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1174	1000	new	10%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1174	1000	new	14%	1980-88	11%	---	10.2	11.008	
1187	1025	new	10%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1187	1025	new	10%	1987	20%	---	8.00	10.647	
88	874	sch	105%	1987	10%	---	10.2	10.760	
1239	1035	sch	10%	1987	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1239	1035	sch	10%	1997	115%	---	12.5	10.670	
1035	8336	sch	0%	1980-88	0%	---	10.2	10.670	
1035	8336	sch	0%	1980-88	0%	---	10.2	10.670	
88	82	sch	150%	1980-88	125%	---	12.5	10.680	
88	82	sch	15%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1035	844	sch	10%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
1035	844	sch	10%	1980-88	10%	---	10.2	10.680	
817	798	sch	0%	2000	91%	---	10.2	10.680	
1146	965	sch	10%	1987	107%	---	10.2	10.680	
1146	977	sch	10%	1980-81	145%	---	10.2	10.680	
1146	977	sch	10%	1980-88	145%	---	10.2	10.680	
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Plans for expansion begin to bear fruit as Seedbeds prosper

By DEREK HARRIS

SEEDBED Centres, a marriage of private and public sector interests that has flourished in Essex, is poised for expansion. Seedbed offers a successful trading format mainly for start-up businesses with some centres claiming up to an 80 per cent survival rate.

The ventures, which have been developed over seven years, are the creation of Malcolm Hazell, managing director of Seedbed Centres, based in Saffron Walden. Each centre is an individual enterprise run by an industrial association with an appropriate local authority as active partner. Leading local business people and professionals, such as lawyers and accountants, are invited to strike up close links. The Hazell operation recruits and trains staff, including each centre manager.



'No, my workaholicism isn't an addiction - it's a necessity!'

Mr Hazell said: "It is extremely commercial but with a strong ribbon of altruism running through it. There is an amazing amount of local goodwill, the professionals who get involved seldom take any fees."

The benefit for a local authority when it releases land for a seedbed project is the creation of jobs and a boost for the local economy. Each centre provides workspace for up to 50 small businesses in purpose-built premises, which usually cost about £3 million to develop. Development cash comes from City institutions such as GRE, Postel, Prudential and Legal & General Group.

Run by the industrial association to the Seedbed Centres format, each centre offers shared services - receptionists, telephonists and so on - with eating and conference facilities. Free business counselling is on tap for the first year of tenancy.

Mr Hazell said: "The idea is to give every possible help to ensure success. We want to make sure the newcomer has a realistic business plan - help in developing one is given if necessary - and steer them away from obvious early mistakes like paying themselves too much the minute they get a good contract in."

There are six centres in Essex with another 25 in prospect. Three are under construction at Norwich in Norfolk, Southall, west London, and Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

Sauces just like grandma's

By ROBIN YOUNG

DOUNNE Alexander-Moore's herbal pepper sauces sell at Harrods and in supermarkets, yet until a year ago she was running her business from a council flat kitchen in East Ham, East London, and supporting herself and two teenage daughters on family credits.

Ms Alexander-Moore was determined to go into a business of her own when her marriage broke down. She started with a £3,000 bank loan, guaranteed by her former boss in the offices of a shipping company where she worked as a credit controller.

Her idea was to market the hot pepper sauces with which, she swears, her herbalist grandmother saved her life as a premature infant in Trinidad. She made the sauces on her home cooker, and bottled them as Gramma's Concentrated Pepper Sauces, designing the labels and packaging herself. By the time she could draw on an alimony settlement of £15,000 to help support the business, she had won orders from Harrods and six other House of Fraser stores, and from Fortnum & Mason.

As a black single parent living in a council flat with no collateral to offer she still found it difficult to persuade any bank to back her. Persuade, radio and television, however, were enthusiastic. "When people complain to me about the negative media," she says, "I tell them I have proof positive it isn't so. I wrote my own press releases and publicity, and appeared on 20 television programmes, 40 radio shows, and in papers wherever I went. Then I would go into bank managers who could not believe I



Financial struggle: Doune Alexander-Moore had difficulty finding backing for her sauces

was asking them for money because they had already heard so much about me, but they still said 'no'.

It took two years before she found a branch of NatWest bold enough to stake her for expansion into the supermarkets. "I went for department stores first, because they had prestige but would not order more than I could supply."

From the flat in East Ham she could prepare just 500 jars a month, working during the day

while neighbours on the floor above were out to limit the annoyance caused by her semi-industrial liquidiser and the pungent smells of her cooking. The council adopted a tolerant attitude. Though tenants are not allowed to run businesses from their flats, what Ms Alexander-Moore was doing was accepted as only test-marketing.

Last January, production of Gramma's moved out to a 1,200 square foot workshop in Hainault.

One of Ms Alexander-Moore's daughters works for her full-time, the other part-time. Her mother, who had sacrificed her income to help the business start, is on the payroll too, and a brother-in-law is financial director. Production capacity is now 100,000 jars a month, and Gramma's are on trial at 150 branches of Tesco and in the Cromwell Road Sainsbury store. The sauces come in four strengths, priced from £1.90 to £2.50.

BRIEFINGS

SMALL businesses can be easy prey for the taxman, according to the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses. The federation was the first national small business organisation to introduce legal expenses cover with a 24-hour legal advisory service for members. The scheme has saved members £5.2 million since October 1983. The free advisory service has shown that employment problems have been the biggest headache for those running small businesses. The federation is at 140 Lower Marsh, Westminster Bridge, London SE1 7AE or telephone 071 928 9272.

THE Association of Independent Businesses wants financial services law to be simplified. The association says that since the Financial Services Act came in a substantial number of independent companies in the financial sector have either shut their doors or disappeared through merger. One company, which had 15 employees and 300 clients for whom it had £40 million under management, sold out after finding compliance with the act would cost about £40,000, which was about the level of profits in its best years.

CONFIRMATION that late payments is a problem comes from a survey by Intrum Justitia, the credit management and debt collection agency. The average credit period offered in Britain is 30 days but only one in 20 companies is paid within that time, with one in four receiving payment after 75 days. Companies with a turnover of less than £10 million are more than twice as likely than larger companies to have payment periods exceeding 75 days. Three quarters of businesses with turnovers of less than £2 million found payments were taking longer than a year ago.

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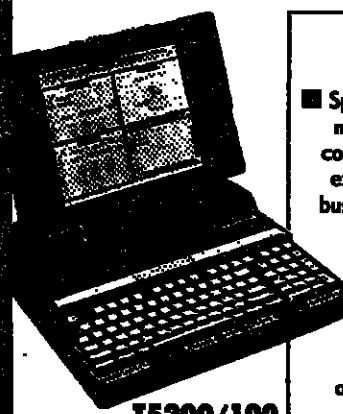
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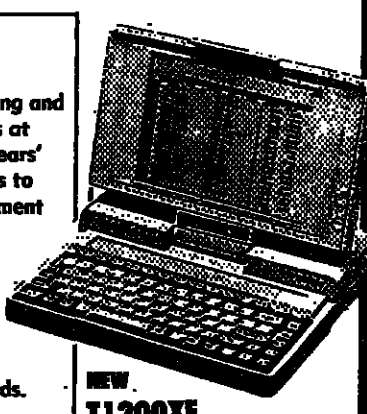
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Court of Appeal

Law Report January 11 1991

Queen's Bench Division

Discretion in conflict of jurisdictions

In re Harrods (Buenos Aires) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Dillon,
Lord Justice Stocker and Lord
Justice Bingham
[Judgment December 19]

Where the defendant to proceedings initiated in England whose subject matter came within the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968 was domiciled in England but there was a conflict of jurisdiction between the English court and a state which was not a party to the Convention, the English court retained its discretion to stay or strike out the proceedings on the basis of the doctrine of *forum non conveniens*.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when ruling on a preliminary issue, on an appeal by Intercomfinanz SA, owners of 51 per cent of the issued share capital of Harrods (Buenos Aires) Ltd from Mr Justice Harman who had dismissed a summons by Intercomfinanz seeking, *inter alia*, an order that the petition brought under the Companies Act 1985 and the Insolvency Act 1986 by Lademor SA, the owners of the remaining 49 per cent of the shares in the company, be stayed on the ground that there was a more appropriate forum for the trial of the issues raised.

The hearing of the appeal on the question of what was the appropriate forum stood adjourned to a later date.

Mr Alan Boyle for Intercomfinanz; Mr Michael Briggs for Lademor.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the company was incorporated in England, but its business was exclusively carried on in Argentina and its central management and control was exercised there. Both the petitioner and the respondent were incorporated in Switzerland.

By their petition Lademor, who asserted that the affairs of the company were being conducted in a manner which was prejudicial to them, sought an order under section 459 of the 1985 Act that Intercomfinanz purchase Lademor's shares in the company, alternatively that the company be wound up compulsorily under the 1986 Act.

The relevant statutory rules the company was a necessary party to the proceedings.

The judge held, *inter alia*, that the English court was the appropriate forum for the trial of the action. But in their Lordships' court a preliminary issue of importance had been taken on behalf of Lademor.

It was submitted that as a result of the 1968 Convention the English court had no jurisdiction to refuse to make a declaration of *forum non conveniens* to decide the issues raised by the petition, since for the purposes of the Convention the company

was domiciled in England, albeit also domiciled in Argentina.

The Convention was set out in Schedule 1 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, by section 2 of which it had the force of law in the United Kingdom. With exceptions presently immaterial, the Convention applied in all civil and commercial matters.

Article 2, which was fundamental to the preliminary issue, provided: "Subject to the provisions of this Convention, persons domiciled in a contracting state shall, whatever their nationality, be sued in the courts of that state."

His Lordship referred to other articles, and said that it was particularly to be noted that the doctrine of *forum non conveniens* under English and Scottish law, as elaborated in *The Spiliada* (1987) 1 AC 640, was not a recognised basis for jurisdiction under the Convention where the starting point was article 220 of the EEC Treaty, whose implementation was stated in the preamble to the Convention to be the desire of the contracting parties.

The object of article 220 was to secure the simplification of formalities governing the recognition and enforcement of judgments of courts or tribunals among the member states of the EEC.

To achieve that object it was evidently decided that the contracting states should have a common basis of international

The question was whether there was a similar prohibition where the conflict of jurisdiction was between the English court and the courts of a non-contracting state, no other contracting state being involved.

In *S & W Berford plc v New Hampshire Insurance Co* ([1990] 3 WLR 688), where there was a dispute between an American company based in New York and the defendant company, deemed to be domiciled in the United Kingdom, Mr Justice Hobhouse held that the English court had no jurisdiction to stay the action.

That decision was followed by Mr Justice Potter in *Arkwright Mutual Insurance Co v Braxton Insurance Co Ltd* ([1990] 3 WLR 705).

The answer to the question depended on the true construction of the Convention and the starting point was article 220 of the EEC Treaty, whose implementation was stated in the preamble to the Convention to be the desire of the contracting parties.

The object of article 220 was to secure the simplification of formalities governing the recognition and enforcement of judgments of courts or tribunals among the member states of the EEC.

To achieve that object it was evidently decided that the contracting states should have a common basis of international

jurisdiction in matters falling within the scope of the Convention. But that common basis did not apply worldwide since, under article 4, if a defendant was not domiciled in a contracting state, the jurisdiction of the courts of each contracting state was to be determined by the national law.

His Lordship concluded that for the English court to refuse jurisdiction, in a case against a person domiciled in England, on the ground that it was more appropriate for the court of a non-contracting state to decide the matter in issue, did not in any way impair the objects of the Convention.

Article 2 did not have the wide mandatory effect which Mr Justice Hobhouse would ascribe to it where the only dispute was between the courts of a single contracting state and those of a non-contracting one.

Differing from the rulings in *Berford* and *Arkwright*, his Lordship would therefore hold that the English court had jurisdiction to stay or dismiss the petition on the ground of *forum non conveniens*.

It was not appropriate for the court to request the European Court of Justice to give a ruling on the issue.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed and Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Frere Cholmeley, Bower Cotton & Bower.

Acquiescence in child retention is fact

In re A (Minors)

Whether a person had acquiesced in the wrongful retention of a child, within the meaning of article 13 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980), so as not to be entitled to an order for the return of the child to the state where it was previously habitually resident, was a question of fact.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stocker) so held on December 21 in dismissing an appeal by

Regina v Taylor. Where a defendant was detained in custody without charge for a period exceeding 24 hours but less than 36 hours, following an authorisation of continued detention for a further three hours under section 42 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, it was permissible for a second authorisation of continued detention for a further five hours to be made during the period of the first authorisation even if the original 24-hour time limit had then expired.

The Court of Appeal (Crim-

inal Division) (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Judge) so held on December 12 when dismissing the appeal of Leroy Taylor against his conviction on March 26, 1990 at Acton Crown Court (Judge Worthington and a jury) of robbery.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that a careful reading of section 42(2) of the 1984 Act showed that a further extension could be made during the period of the first extension even though it was made after the 24-hour period.

His Lordship said that it was open to the secretary of state to form the view that the extension of grant-maintained status ought to be tried in Newham.

Nobody could know for certain what would happen. There had been evidence pointing both ways, but the Education Reform Act 1988 Parliament had given the secretary of state the authority to make the decision; not the courts or the local education authority.

Practitioners should note that such adjournment applications were avoidable and had to be avoided; otherwise, the court's power under Order 62 to disallow costs between a solicitor and his client, or the court's power to order a solicitor to pay costs or even the power to strike

an application under section 49 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, would have to be invoked.

The client should not have to pay for aborted hearings caused by lack of preparation.

Such applications were regularly made to judges of the Queen's Bench Division. Applications to break fixtures which had been made by agreement and arrangements with a wholly cooperative listing office months ahead were sought to be broken too often at a late stage, often a day or so before the case was due to come on.

His Lordship feared that many such applications made to him in the last two months had been caused by lack of preparation and had been made for no other reason. Costs could be visited upon the lawyers responsible in proper cases. There were, fortunately, few such cases but they did occur.

It might be desirable that the lay client should be present on such occasions. They would sometimes be upset to hear an application being made to adjourn or vacate a fixture in their name in that way.

It was to be hoped that practitioners would realise that such applications would not be looked upon easily and without close scrutiny and in proper cases it would be necessary to disallow costs so that the customer or lay client did not have to pay for an application which was made necessary because a case was unprepared.

His Lordship's attitude and that of the master was not adopted on the basis that they must at all costs be kept busy or on the basis that the customers' problems could not in proper cases lead to an adjournment. Such an attitude would, of course, be unreasonable and archaic.

They were concerned because late vacating of a fixed date or appointment simply meant that other cases in the queue were necessarily and proportionately delayed. Any delay which was avoidable had to be and could be avoided.

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Costs risk over late adjournments

Fewkes v Duthie

Before Mr Justice Macpherson
[Judgment December 5]

Late applications for adjournments of hearings or to vacate fixtures, whether before a master or judge, were highly undesirable, would be subject to close scrutiny and, if the application had been necessary by delay or lack of preparation on the part of legal advisers, costs would be disallowed.

Mr Justice Macpherson so stated in the Queen's Bench Division in allowing an application to adjourn by consent a half-day appointment before a Queen's Bench Master to hear an Order 14 summons for summary judgment under the Rules of the Supreme Court. The application had been adjourned by Master Topley to Mr Justice Macpherson as judge in charge of the non-jury list.

Mr Martin Pascoe for the plaintiff, Henry Christopher Francis Fewkes; Mr John McCaughan for the defendants, George Duthie and Alistair Grant.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that the masters' diaries were full and it was the duty of those who held appointments to see that affidavits were filed in time both ways and that cases were ready in time. Otherwise further general delay was caused to cases in the queue.

Because of the shortage of available masters, a half-day appointment could only be obtained 22 weeks ahead and any time which was lost because of a cancellation had a knock-on effect. That had to be apparent to everybody and the position had to be remedied.

Masters might care to consider giving some simple directions as to evidence and its service when a fixture was given in such cases. Masters would always find a few minutes to give directions as to service of affidavits and such like before a fixed date if solicitors would attend for such directions.

Even with strict adherence to the time limits as to service of affidavits in support of an Order 14 summons there could be difficulty caused and prejudice to an appointment by failure to serve evidence in time.

Late cancellation of appointments was responsible for loss of about 10 per cent of masters' time so that the masters' corridor was thus effectively deprived of one master.

Practitioners should note that such adjournment applications were avoidable and had to be avoided; otherwise, the court's power under Order 62 to disallow costs between a solicitor and his client, or the court's power to order a solicitor to pay costs or even the power to strike

an application under section 49 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, would have to be invoked.

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Such applications were regularly made to judges of the Queen's Bench Division. Applications to break fixtures which had been made by agreement and arrangements with a wholly cooperative listing office months ahead were sought to be broken too often at a late stage, often a day or so before the case was due to come on.

His Lordship feared that many such applications made to him in the last two months had been caused by lack of preparation and had been made for no other reason. Costs could be visited upon the lawyers responsible in proper cases. There were, fortunately, few such cases but they did occur.

It might be desirable that the lay client should be present on such occasions. They would sometimes be upset to hear an application being made to adjourn or vacate a fixture in their name in that way.

It was to be hoped that practitioners would realise that such applications would not be looked upon easily and without close scrutiny and in proper cases it would be necessary to disallow costs so that the customer or lay client did not have to pay for an application which was made necessary because a case was unprepared.

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Endurance fanatics dig deep to battle jellyfish and fatigue

From CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

THE sharks and dolphins stayed away, the Fremantle Doctor was kind, and the flow of Perth's warm Swan River was favourable enough for the United States and Australia to teach the rest of the world a lesson in toughness in the first 25-kilometre world championship swimming race.

There was a feeling of fascination and excitement among the several thousand people who lined the embankment near Burwood Beach to watch 19 women and 27 men dive into the clear 22°C waters of the Swan at 7am. Having once swum up to 15 kilometres a day in training, I felt only the kind of comfort to be found in being a spectator.

Ahead of the 46 endurance fanatics lay 25 kilometres of pain — not just that suffered through hard work, but also from the multiple jellyfish stings that plague competitors. The swimmers turn on their backs every half an hour to enjoy food or drink while in motion. The British favoured peaches, the Americans bananas and the Australians chocolate cake.

Shelley Taylor Smith, the West Australian who is coached by Americans, described the stinging menaces as ghostbusters. After winning the women's race in a fast 5hr 21min 05.53sec, beating 18 men, she sobbed: "I've just finished a 35k sprint. I've never swum so fast. I'm so proud to be a West Australian."

Yes, yes, but what about the jellyfish? They explode in your face like bubblegum and

today there were millions of them. Apart from that, conditions were perfect and I could see the crowd and the boat. It was all great."

Chad Hundebly, of the United States, a history student, won, with honours for tactics and speed. Hundebly, aged 19, reached Point Resolution, about the halfway mark, in sixth place, more than one-and-a-half minutes behind Christof Wandratz of Germany. While the German, aged 30, paid the price for a fast start, his less experienced rival took the lead 5km from home, and to everyone's amazement sprinted the last 200m to finish in 5hr 1min 45.78sec, about 20 minutes ahead of expectation.

Hundebly put his victory and the silver and bronze medals won by colleagues, Martha Jahn and Karen Burton, in the women's race down to his day workouts and the willpower to do "a good job". "People say we're insane, but the thrill of the race and covering the distance is immense," Hundebly said. "Americans have trained for many years for this moment. It gives me a great personal satisfaction to take up this challenge and see it through."

His coach, Flip Darr, said you had to have a feeling deep down inside you. "That's what gives you the confidence to do this sort of thing."

That explains much. While I was extremely moved by the sight of swimmers conquering their aquatic Everest and stumbling giddily out of the

water in marathonesque manner, my admiration gave me no deep urge to dive into the Swan.

In contrast, Taranath Shenoy obviously had that feeling. The Indian, aged 31, was 45th, or last (one swimmer dropped out with shoulder pain), in 7hr 26min 14.63sec, not so bad, given that he is deaf and partially blind.

Justin Palfrey, of Britain, swam his fastest race for thirteen years, five places ahead of Marc Newman, his more experienced colleague.

Bridget Young, of Britain, was eleventh, but the last word went to Carole Hunt, the last of the British. Hunt, who criticised team managers for not letting her wear a two-piece Speedo swimsuit, and whose guide boat lost her in the pack at the start, said: "I only swore once at the boat, that's my record for today. It was great. There was lots to like, the boats, bridges, Pelican Bay, it was a very short 6½ hours."

China's diving queen, Gao Min, finished well ahead of her rivals when qualifying for today's world swimming championships three-metre springboard final.

Gao, aged 20, who on Monday won the one-metre springboard event, finished more than 34 points ahead of her nearest rival, Irina Lashko, of the Soviet Union. Gao recorded the highest score among the preliminary dives — 72.90 points for an inward two-and-a-half somersault pike.

RESULTS FROM PERTH

Men

Swimming

25 kilometres

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Young Benz to fend off Yorkshire rival

Levy Board leader emphasises vital role of parliament

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WITH Uncle Ernie and Young Benz both making the trip from their Yorkshire bases, the grade two PML Lightning Novices' Chase at Ascot today is a mouth-watering prospect. Both are unbeaten in three races over fences and, in going for Young Benz, I am swayed by two factors. Firstly, he was the better over hurdles; secondly, he will be receiving 4lb from his principal rival because he has not won a chase worth £5,000, whereas Uncle Ernie has.

While conceding that Uncle Ernie's form over fences is arguably the better, having beaten this week's Leicester winner, Tildarg, prior to winning at Kempton two days after Christmas, it is equally difficult to fault Young Benz, who has won his three chases by 25, 12 and 30 lengths.

Also, having jumped around both Wetherby and Haydock, where the fences are among the most challenging in the country, he should not be inconvenienced by those at Ascot, which have been known to catch out even the most agile.

Back Willow, who shaped nicely enough when second to My Young Man at Newbury

on his English debut after spending his formative days in Ireland, should again acquit well but may not have the speed to cope with Young Benz, who won the November Handicap at Doncaster in his heyday on the Flat.

Arctic Call, whose last appearance was at Newbury in November when he won the Hennessy Gold Cup, carries top weight in the First National Handicap Chase. In the meantime, his life has been endangered by a bad attack of colic.

While knowing that Oliver Sherwood would not be running today unless he was totally happy, I still feel that the concession of 17lb to Alone Success will prove beyond him.

My selection staged a fine comeback after a long injury-enforced absence at Newbury a fortnight ago and I feel sure that Nicky Henderson's eight-year-old, who was good enough to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham four seasons ago, is now ready to fulfil that potential over fences.

New York Rainbow can trigger a double for Henderson by winning the Hairy Mary

Novices' Hurdle. It was no disgrace to be beaten ten lengths by Gasaid at Kempton on Boxing Day for there were plenty of useful performers behind.

The Silver Doctor Novices' Hurdle is guaranteed to bring the best out of Crystal Spirit, who was in his element on the Flat only when confronted with a thorough test of stamina.

When winning at Newbury before finishing second in an in-form Hopscoth at Chesham, Crystal Spirit also displayed above-average ability over hurdles.

Another to have done likewise is Mary Revely's exciting young horse, Cab On Target, who is expected to make it four victories on the trot by landing the Whitley Novices' Hurdle at Wetherby. Two of his three previous wins were on the level but, when winning by ten lengths on his hurdling debut at Newcastle, he made it abundantly clear that he is destined to make a name for himself in that sphere.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 150 Mr McCreath, 220

Travelling, 250 Murrage, 320 Chury

govs and I have a duty to be impartial as between the racing industry and its second major group of customers, the punters.

With the Commons horse affairs select committee inquiry into the levy system starting at the end of this month, Sir John added: "It is worth remembering that the system is based on statute, and that significant changes from the present system would also require statutory approval. Any attempt to improve the fortunes of the industry on a long-term basis will have to be based on arguments that satisfy both Whitehall and Westminster."

Although he acknowledged the financial problems currently facing the racing industry, Sir John warned: "There are dangers to the industry in exaggerating the problems, particularly if it collectively succeeds in frightening away the owners, the breeders and the trainers, and potential owners, who are a successful recovery from the recession must in large part depend. It would, I think, be a foolish industry that went too far in persisting its customers that they could no longer afford to participate."

He continued: "What racing has to consider is how it can best attract and retain its customers of every kind. The owners, the breeders, the trainers and the punters all play a key role in keeping racing, training and breeding going."

Guide to our in-line record

1 15345 GOOD TIMES 12 (FF,F,A,S) (Mn D Smith) 8 Hail 12-0

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F = fell, S = slipped, A = accident, F = first, G = good, B = best, W = winner, D = distance, H = hurdle, C = course, N = novice, L = last, M = maiden, P = placed, T = time, R = race, Y = year, O = other, I = in, U = under, V = victory, E = error, X = extra, Z = zero, 0 = none, 1 = one, 2 = two, 3 = three, 4 = four, 5 = five, 6 = six, 7 = seven, 8 = eight, 9 = nine, 10 = ten, 11 = eleven, 12 = twelve, 13 = thirteen, 14 = fourteen, 15 = fifteen, 16 = sixteen, 17 = seventeen, 18 = eighteen, 19 = nineteen, 20 = twenty, 21 = twenty-one, 22 = twenty-two, 23 = twenty-three, 24 = twenty-four, 25 = twenty-five, 26 = twenty-six, 27 = twenty-seven, 28 = twenty-eight, 29 = twenty-nine, 30 = thirty, 31 = thirty-one, 32 = thirty-two, 33 = thirty-three, 34 = thirty-four, 35 = thirty-five, 36 = thirty-six, 37 = thirty-seven, 38 = thirty-eight, 39 = thirty-nine, 40 = forty, 41 = forty-one, 42 = forty-two, 43 = forty-three, 44 = forty-four, 45 = forty-five, 46 = forty-six, 47 = 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Win or lose, Johnson's return has only fleeting significance for long-term future of athletics

A sport on a tightrope of credibility

From DAVID MILLER in HAMILTON, ONTARIO

THE issue surrounding a race lasting five-and-a-half seconds here tonight is less about the future of a discredited champion than the future of the sport itself. A survey by Canadian Television showing 43 per cent of the public having lost confidence in the credibility of track and field is probably representative of most other countries.

The cynicism directed at Athletics Canada, the national federation, rather than towards Ben Johnson, the man who was found out, is because of a suspicion that officialdom regards getting caught as more of a crime than being guilty. The future of athletics depends on whether honesty, rather than the commercial allure of world records, really matters to the International Olympic Committee, the International Amateur Athletic Federation and to the prime national federations of countries such as the United States and Canada that are socially infested with drugs.

It does not really matter whether Johnson wins or loses tonight's 50 metres against an intimidatingly strong field. If he wins, he will still have everything to prove. If he loses, and does so repeatedly during the next two months, the golden goose will quickly begin to look a little sick.

Whatever Athletics Canada feels — the national federation has criticised Cecil Smith, the Hamilton meeting director, for "stacking" such a tough field for the first race of a man who can help fill Canadian coffers — the Canadian government does think the issue matters. If new regulations announced yesterday by Marcel Danis, the sports minister, to operate from April 1, had been law in 1988, Charlie Francis, the then coach to Johnson, could have received a jail sentence of up to ten years for drug trafficking.

Government legislation, similar to that existing in Scandinavia on possession and trafficking, was vigorously pursued by Colin Moynihan, Britain's recent minister for sport, in negotiations with a slothful Home Office. Robert Atkins, the new

British minister for sport, is committed to continuing the campaigning, as are British sports organisations. At stake worldwide are the principles by which society conducts its daily life.

The cynicism is, understandably, widespread. Athletics abuse is so rampant that Canadian sports columnists have been suggesting in recent days that testing should be abolished and competitors allowed to do what they wish to themselves with needles or pills. "Let them all have heart attacks at \$30,000 a race," *The Toronto Sun* argued.

The new Canadian government regulations are in response to the \$Can 3.6 million Dublin enquiry, and will involve 400 random drug-testers in a \$Can 5.8 million three-year programme that will be combined with educational warnings. Dr. André Pige, chairman of the new anti-drugs organisation, likened its responsibilities to the problem of drink-driving. Danis, announcing the laws at a press conference, said that evidence regrettably revealed that the drug situation was no better than when Johnson tested positive in Seoul.

Francis, banned for life by Athletics Canada, in his testimony to the Dublin enquiry, said that "drugs in the USA is a time bomb". The hypocrisy of Athletics Canada is that it has given Francis the ultimate penalty, but does nothing about Judge Dublin's findings that "it is apparent... information about performance-enhancing drugs came to the attention of the Canadian Track and Field Association [the former title of Athletics Canada]", and that "athletes were warned of testing by officials in advance".

Francis, an outstanding sprint coach, joined the rat race because he knew there were so many rats in the game. "Johnson is not going to be able to run as fast as he ran before," Francis forecasts.

"He will run world-class times, but he will break records? If I thought he could do that without steroids, why would I have given him drugs



Beaten on success: Johnson puts his back into training as he prepares to launch his comeback to sprinting tonight

in the first place?"

The cards are stacked against Johnson, quite apart from a two-and-a-half year absence from the track, not only tonight but throughout his comeback schedule which begins with nine indoor races, moving from here to Los Angeles, Ottawa, Osaka, Saskatoon (Canadian championships), Karlsruhe, Sindelfingen, Seville (world championships), and the Hague on March 17. No sprinter over 29 has ever run 10.0sec or under outdoors, achieved previously by Johnson and ten others.

In tonight's race two of his four rivals, Williams, of Jamaica, at 6ft 11in, and Council of America, 6ft 2in, are taller than Johnson, who is 5ft 10in. Small men excel indoors. The obvious danger is Cason, two inches shorter at 5ft 8in, fastest in the world at 55

metres last year and ranked fifth in the world in 1989 at 100 metres with 10.04sec.

Loren Seagrave, the coach who succeeded Francis, says that Johnson is as ready as can be at the moment. "I think after the three North American competitions we will have a pretty good idea of what we've accomplished."

But Smith, tonight's meeting director, is pessimistic. "Johnson's treading a tightrope and we're waiting to see if he falls," Smith said. "If he can't win a short distance like this, he's dead in the water before he starts. One metre could separate a first and fifth."

Imagine the effect on Johnson's morale if he's last. Should Johnson be humiliated tonight, or in the coming months, he will be the victim of a sport that is also walking a tightrope of credibility.

JOHNSON'S TRACK RECORD

Born: December 30, 1961, in Falmouth, Jamaica.
Nationality: Canadian (emigrated from Jamaica to Toronto in 1979).
Olympic Games: 1984: 100m and 4x100m relay silver medals; 1988: stripped of his 100m gold medal after returning positive drug test.
World championships: 1983: 100m semi-finalist; 1987: 100m gold medal.
Commonwealth Games: 1982: 100m and 4x100m relay silver medals; 1986: 100m and 4x100m relay gold medals; 200m bronze.
World Cup: 1985: 100m gold medal, 4x100m relay silver medal.
World indoor championships: 1985: 60m gold medal; 1987: 60m gold medal.
Records: Following his positive test for steroids at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, his 100m world record (9.83sec) — his unratified Olympic final time was 9.79sec — and world indoor records for 50m (5.55sec) and 60m (6.41sec), were expunged.

TONIGHT'S OPPONENTS

ANDRE CASON (US): Aged 21. Height: 5ft 8in. Weight: 154lbs. Best 100m in 1990, 10.12sec.
Fastest 55m in the world 1990, 6.04sec. World junior 100 metres champion, 1988. Ranked fifth in the world in 1988 at 10.04sec. US relay team gold medal, World Cup, 1988.
DARON COUNCIL (US): Aged 26. 6ft 2in, 170lbs. Best 100m in 1990, 10.17sec.
Ranked eighth at 100m and ninth at 200m by Track and Field News for 1990. US relay team gold medal in the Goodwill Games and World Cup. Second in TAC 55m, 1990.
MIKE MARSH (US): Aged 23. 5ft 10in, 150lbs. Best 100 metres in 1990, 10.08sec (at altitude).
Fifth fastest in the world over 100m in 1990. Top ten in US for last four years. Personal best 10.07sec, in 1989.
PATRICK WILLIAMS (Jamaica): Aged 23. 6ft 0in, 185lbs. Best 100m in 1990, 10.06sec.
Seventh fastest in the world over 100m in 1990. Ranked third in the Commonwealth last year.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Coe leadership questioned

By JOHN GOODBODY

SEBASTIAN Coe's leadership of the bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games in London is now being questioned as the race for the British nomination accelerates. London has less than three weeks to register its bid with the British Olympic Association (BOA), which will decide in April whether to nominate any city to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC will choose the location of the 2000 Games in September 1993.

The BOA has insisted that only one bid from each city will be considered and London has yet to conclude a merger between the different bodies — London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Coe; Tarmac, the construction company; and the London Council for Sport and Recreation, an amalgam of local authorities and sports representatives in the capital.

Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte, a leading firm of accountants, which drew up a feasibility study, is trying to get the different parties together to support a joint effort.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies and is backing London Olympic 2000, is hopeful the merger will be "wrapped up" at the weekend. "There are only one or two sticking points, nothing important," he said.

However, despite goodwill on all sides, it is proving difficult to get the necessary structure of administration to drive through the bid. In particular, some of those involved question the role of Coe.

Although everyone accepts he has the sporting pedigree and international stature, they wonder whether he has the necessary

commercial and entrepreneurial skills for an event that could cost £1 billion.

In addition, as a prospective Conservative MP for Falmouth, he has the disadvantage not just of being allied to one party but, more particularly, as the probable representative of a constituency 282 miles from London.

At preliminary meetings, it has been estimated that more than £200,000 will be needed to promote London to the BOA. Should the capital defeat Manchester in the polling and the bid be forwarded to the IOC, a further £10 million will be required to support the candidacy in the following two years.

There remains a slight danger that London will be unable to combine its forces effectively over the next three weeks. Indeed, the BOA could be confronted with rival bids.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Second division to be compressed

THE Rugby Football League yesterday moved quickly after the admission of Scarborough in announcing a three-division plan, operable from the 1992-3 season (Keith Mackinnon writes).

The plan is remarkable in that the second division will have only eight clubs — a "pressure cooker" situation, in the words of David Oxley, the chief executive. The eight-club division is the brainchild of Gary Hetherington, the manager of Sheffield Eagles.

The first and third divisions will have 14 clubs each, with a two-up and two-down promotion and relegation system. The

eight second-division sides will play each other four times during the season, giving 28 games. The first and third divisions will have 26 matches, with each club playing the others home and away. There is a possibility that the scheme could start next season if sufficient clubs are in agreement.

Twelve players new to international rugby league have been named in the Great Britain Under-21 squad to play France at Limoux on January 26. The only senior international is the Wigan pair of Bobby Goulding and Phil Clarke, although all the players in the squad have had considerable first-team experience.

Goulding's choice will, ironically, be a disappointment to him. He has hoped for the place in the Great Britain senior team to play France on January 27 at Perpignan in place of his club colleague, Andy Gregory, who has retired from the international scene.

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER-21: Connolly (St Helens); Barbyshire (Warrington); Fawcett (Leeds); Goulding (Wigan); Lamb (Hull); Morgan (Oldham); Myers (Wigan); Neill (Featherstone Rovers); Hudd (Warrington); Price (Widnes); Cheevers (Huddersfield); Clarke (Wigan); Fawcett (Wigan); Jackson (Hull); McQuinn (Widnes); McManus (St Helens); Preece (Wakefield Trinity); Richards (Bradford Northern); Southworth (Castleford).

GOLF

Macgregor to lead Walker Cup team

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Macgregor has been appointed by the Royal and Ancient to captain Great Britain and Ireland in their defence of the Walker Cup against the United States at Portmarnock, near Dublin, on September 5-6.

Macgregor, aged 46, has played in five Walker Cup matches, including that of 1971 when Great Britain and Ireland won, although he has not captained Scotland for whom he has played on 160 occasions. "It came as a great surprise for the very reason that I have not been looking forward to the challenge especially as we are at Portmarnock which I consider to be one of the very best courses I have played."

It is a challenge he will relish particularly at Great Britain and Ireland will, for the first time in the history of the biennial encounter, be defending the Walker Cup on home soil after the triumph at Peachtree, Atlanta, in 1989.

For Macgregor, it will also mean another hectic year since he is only now approaching the end of his term as captain of the Glasgow club which in 1990 celebrated its centenary. Jim Milligan, Garth McGimpsey and Peter McEvoy will be available for selection although the other seven members of the 1989 team have all turned professional.

Craig Everett, the Scottish champion, and Andrew Coltart, another Scot, will be contenders for places along with Gary Evans, Ricky Willison, Jim Payne, Ian Garbutt, Liam White and Michael Welch, all of England, Mike Macara and Andrew Barnett, of Wales, and Paul McGinley, Padraig Harrington and Niall Goulding, of Ireland.

Unlike his predecessors, Macgregor will have the best part of the year to monitor the progress of players as the match has been switched from its traditional date in May. The selectors, however, will probably decide on the team after the European team championships at Puerto de Hierro, Madrid, on June 26-30.

In 1971, Macgregor beat Jim Gabrielsen by one hole on his debut to help Great Britain and Ireland win. His team colleagues included Geoffrey Marks, captain of the 1989 team and now chairman of the selection committee, and Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient.

IN BRIEF

Britons in last eights

ENGLAND'S two best-known badminton singles players, Darren Hall and Helen Troke, both reached the quarter-finals of one of the leading grand prix tournaments, the Taipei Masters, yesterday with wins over good opponents.

Troke avenged last summer's Uber Cup defeat against the Japanese player, Harumi Kohbara, 11-2, 11-7, while Hall won 15-11, 3-15, 15-12 against Kwan Yoke Meng, a member of the Malaysia's Thomas Cup silver medal-winning team.

SQUASH RACKETS: The sport's richest tournament, the £120,000 (approximately £62,000) World Cup, is likely to be called off because of the Gulf Crisis. The event, which had attracted all the world's top players, was due to take place in Dubai from February 13 to 18.

BOXING: The promoter, Frank Warren, has been barred by British officials from bidding for Kevin Fritchard's British super-featherweight title defence against Robert Dickie. Warren cancelled the original promotion at the London Arena on January 23.

YACHTING: John Bertrand, of Australia, in the first strong, steady, 20-25 knot "Fremantle Doctor" sea breeze of the series, steered Two Saints and a Magpie to a win in the fourth race of the Etchells 22 world championship off Fremantle yesterday.

Chris Law, of Britain, retained the points lead with worst placing discarded.

BOWLS: Jim Baker's hopes of becoming the first player to successfully defend the Bushmills Whiskey Irish Masters title ended in disappointment in Ballymorney yesterday when he lost in five sets to Hugh Duff, of Scotland.

RUGBY UNION

Promotional firm optimistic over contract with RFU

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE promotional company which has been accepted, in principle, to represent the commercial activities of England's rugby union players, remains confident that a contract will be agreed with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) despite what they claim is a "substantial misrepresentation" in a newspaper article yesterday.

David Willis, a partner in Instyle Promotions which has an agreement with Player Vision — the company formed by the bulk of England's present squad — said his firm had voluntarily withdrawn from any activities which involved the use of unofficial — that is, black market — tickets to international matches.

"Corporate hospitality in rugby is a very small part of our business," Willis said. "We have chartered the West Coast Pulkman to take a party to the Wales-England match on January 19, including nearly 100 from British Gas, the official match sponsors, but most of our clients have their own tickets. We have been approached by some who have not and we have been able to obtain tickets for them."

"But now that we have established a relationship with the RFU, such activities will cease after we have honoured arrangements existing before the change in the amateur regulations last October," Willis spoke to Dudley Wood (the RFU secretary) to make clear to him that we have been substantially misrepresented in the article. As far as I am concerned, we will continue with the arrangements we had."

Solicitors representing Instyle and the RFU are drafting an agreement, but Wood said: "We could not enter into a contract with a company part of whose business was corporate entertainment at rugby matches based on black-market tickets."

So long as the sale of tickets above their face value is not illegal — and in Ireland measures are being considered to follow the United States in making that the case — then sporting bodies can only try to vary their security and punitive measures.

Mike Burton, the former England prop whose MBM company has established a secure hold in this market over the last ten years, has sold 936 entertainment packages for Wales-England and takes the view that the sporting authorities have "fanned the flames of commercialism" themselves.

"What Twickenham should do is ensure everyone can watch matches in the style MBM clients do," he said. "I cater for a need. Everybody wants to go to a sporting event, park happily, enjoy lunch, watch the match, have tea and drive home. Our prices will probably come down next year because we get so many tickets."

Wood, though denying charges of rampant commercialism by the RFU, agrees that the Twickenham redevelopment programme should include "day-out" facilities for customers, believe anything up to 10,000 of the 60-70,000 people who will watch international matches in the future would like to be able to book lunch for their party, at a reasonable price, in the ground. I would like to achieve that. It would be to build the East Stand it will not be possible."

Cooke seeks panel to select referees

GEOFF Cooke, the England team manager, called yesterday for an independent panel to assess and select referees for the five nations' championship, which begins on January 19 when Wales play England in Cardiff and Scotland travel to Paris to play France (David Hands writes).

Cooke, speaking at a Sports Writers' Association lunch in London, said: "I find it difficult to understand a system where each country can select its own referees." Under the present system, the five nations' committee nominates the country of the referee, but that country chooses the official.

"It would be logical for each country to nominate the referees they want to be involved, but for some independent panel to allocate a referee to a match," Cooke said. He said he had expected either Brian Anderson or Jim Fleming to take charge of Wales v England, but said of Ray Mespleon, the Edinburgh lawyer appointed: "I am sure he will be very keen to do well."

"I can see potential dangers in having paid coaches at national level because the pressures on players are hard enough as it is."

"The answer could be some form of secondment where each rugby union would reach an agreement with the individual's employer so that the coach had a job to go back to."

up against world-class players in Carling and Guscott but Mark and I will be out to do our best and we will not back out of anything."

Jenkins added: "Everything has happened too quickly. I've watched so many games at the National Stadium and to be running out there against England — I can't believe it."

While the two new backs are relative newcomers at senior level, the two new wingers, forward have plenty of experience. Glen George, the blind-side flanker, has had seven seasons with Newport, whom he has upstaged to marvellous wins over Neath and Bridgend recently. Alan Carter has shot to prominence with tremendous performances before the selectors in these two matches, and has impressed in squad training this week. He spent seven seasons with Pontypridd before joining Newport.

George, who captained Wales B in The Netherlands in December, said: "It will take a couple of days to sink in but we have training sessions organised to settle into things. I have been playing well, you don't think of anything and just keep your head down."



Who's the energy behind Wales and England on January 19th?

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Edwards looking at stock market

By IAN ROSS

MARTIN Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, announced yesterday that he expects the football club to be floated on the stock market before the end of the season.

Speaking after the club's annual meeting, Edwards outlined an ambitious plan which, it is hoped, will raise sufficient money to help finance the £13 million cost of refurbishing sections of United's Old Trafford ground.

He added that he would be diluting his own majority shareholding in the club by offering for sale "part" of his 50.6 per cent holding.

Edwards, however, stressed that the economic climate would have to be healthy before any flotation was undertaken, and that the project could be delayed if war was to break out in the Gulf or a general election was called.

If, as seems probable, Edwards decides to sell half of his shareholding, he could expect to collect in excess of £7 million should shares in United reach an anticipated price of £30 each. Earlier this week, they were quoted at £22.

"I have to be careful what I say because, at the end of the day, this is still only an intention and we are still talking about it with professional advisers," he said.

"I have a responsibility to make sure that I do not give too many details because our advisers have to be happy with the number of shares they feel comfortable floating.

"I can confirm that I shall be selling some of my shares and that additional shares will be available. Clearly, the climate has to be right; the stock market must be in a healthy position.

"We have a lot of money to spend on our ground so it would be crazy to do a float which just benefits me. It makes sense to raise some additional capital to pay for the improvements," he said.

Edwards also refused to be drawn on the question of whether majority control of the club would remain within the board of directors after any flotation or whether he would continue as both chairman and salaried chief executive.

"I just cannot say until we get down to figures," he said. "We shall consider whether the two roles can go together."

Any move to float United on the stock market will have to be presented to, and ratified by, an extraordinary meeting of the club's shareholders. "I would not say that this is an absolute necessity for this club but I would say it was desirable," Edwards said.

Edwards announced a record loss of £2.8 million in the year ending July 31, 1990, but told shareholders the club was now out of the red.

Referees to meet, page 32

ICC adopts referee for internationals

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
MELBOURNE

EVERY international cricket match played after the end of September this year is to be policed by a paid referee with wide disciplinary powers, including the suspension, though not the sending-off, of players who abuse a new code of conduct.

This tacit admission that the game's image can no longer be left in the hands of over-burdened umpires and self-interested team managements was unanimously resolved at the special meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which ended in Melbourne yesterday.

The code will cover all aspects of player behaviour and the referee will deal immediately with offences which he may spot himself, or those reported to him by the umpires. He is expected to refer to

higher authority only when he deems a suspension appropriate, and all disciplinary measures will be made public.

For a body accused frequently, and with justification, of fudging important issues, this was an emphatic step towards eliminating the petty misbehaviour and parochial mistrust which is such an unwelcome part of the modern game. It fell short, however, of the complete package which the council's officers, and all but one of its full members, had hoped to see implemented.

The theory of independent umpires has been debated for some years now and yesterday a decision of sorts was taken, with a six-one majority voting in favour of the mandatory use of overseas umpires for all Test cricket.

Acceptance of the principle will count for nothing in the foreseeable future, however, as the prohibitive

cost of the venture puts it well outside the financial scope of the ICC at a time when most of its member countries have little or no money to spare.

Australia, alone, seem relieved by this as they continue to oppose on the grounds that perceived neutrality does not guarantee quality and that many of their own, part-time umpires would be unavailable. A sponsor will actively be sought, although with few realistic prospects in the present world recession.

For the time being, any teams engaged in a Test series can continue to employ umpires from neutral countries at their own expense. Pakistan have already done so more than once, with notable success.

Colin Cowdrey, the chairman of the ICC, admits to a sense of frustration. "I have come to accept that it is a very different game from when I played and I believe that

independent umpires would take a lot of the emotion out of it."

It had been hoped that the code of conduct could be in place before this summer's English series against the West Indies, but the detail involved in drawing up rules acceptable to everyone, obtaining legal approval, and agreeing upon a panel of referees, persuaded the council to defer until October.

Referees will often be respected, recent Test players and it is planned, where possible, to encourage continuity with one man overseeing a complete series. Fees will be roughly similar to those received by English Test umpires so that, in a three-match series, a referee would be paid around £5,000.

Explaining the purpose of the scheme, Cowdrey said: "We felt the time had come to have an ICC man present, representing the family of Test cricket. He would have his

eyes on a whole armoury of things and would be there to support, not contradict the umpires. We are trying to defend and promote the professional game in the best possible way."

One of the referee's peripheral functions would be to guard against the deliberate, or simply dilatory, slowing-down of play. The council has also made progress towards a unilateral minimum of 15 overs per hour and hopes, at the annual July meeting in London, to introduce compulsory fines for all teams falling short.

"We are all concerned about slow over-rates," Cowdrey said, "and it is my personal hope that the professional game will not merely settle for 90 overs a day, but will seek to lift that figure."

Cowdrey was at his most defensive when the sensitive subject of South Africa arose. He confirmed, in a prepared statement, that a

letter had been received from the presidents of the South African Cricket Union and South African Cricket Board, recording their efforts to form a single, non-racial body to govern cricket, and that the ICC meeting had "noted" its contents.

Despite being persistently pressed on the issue, Cowdrey declined to comment further. I understand that this is because the meeting heard not a murmur of encouragement for progress towards South Africa's readmission to the international circuit.

For all the drum-banging talk before the meeting by English and Australian delegates regarding the possibility of a fact-finding mission being sent to South Africa, the subject was not raised in conference. Any representations to discuss South Africa's position in July must be made to the council by the end of March.

Sad England fall short in the final reckoning

FROM ALAN LEE

ENGLAND'S once passionate affair with one-day cricket has long since cooled. They were still nodding acquaintances until last night but now, despite the camouflage of heroic last-ditch attempts at a reconciliation, all relations have been severed.

England went out of the World Series Cup competition because they abandoned the essentials of limited-overs cricket, having been disrespectful with the basic requirements throughout this tour.

They neither fielded tidily enough nor, at the crucial times, batted sensibly enough, to earn a ticket to the finals. This last qualifying game against Australia, who sometimes played with the nonchalance of those whose present has already been received, was effectively lost before the last two wickets conceded 72 unlikely runs and the best finish of the series.

For all the excitement associated with the closing overs, not to mention the improbable demand on Philip Tufnell, whose night this assuredly had not been, to hit Terry Alderman's final delivery for four, England had surrendered the initiative much earlier in a game they had to win in order to displace New Zealand from second place in the table.

In the mournful aftermath Graham Gooch pointed an accusing finger at himself, for another in his sequence of innings which have expired at a moment when the opposition is least hopeful and most grateful.

Gooch batted carefully for

World Series Cup

	W	L	T	PTS
Australia	8	7	1	4.77
New Zealand	8	8	0	4.08
England	8	8	0	4.08

series. After 15 overs they were 26 for two, Bicknell having struck twice with good balls. They reached 100 from the last ball of the thirtieth over, and when Mark Waugh was run out and the big-hitting O'Donnell fired a blank, the innings looked to be folding.

Ian Healy, for the second time this week, caused England dismay. His stand with Steve Waugh, whose authority was overdue, produced 95 runs in 12 overs as England, obliged to field in temperatures which soared to 41°C, wilted visibly.

Gooch and Gower, who continues to bat supremely well, gave England the ideal start before Gower, moving slightly across his stumps to an inswinger from Alderman, was understandably distraught to be given leg-before with the total on 39. Larkins played inside the line of Alderman's first ball to him, changed tack to play no shot at all to the next, and was bowled round his legs. In three balls, the game had changed course.

While Gooch and Stewart were together, putting on 54 without hurry, the game remained comfortably within England's sights, and the appearance in the attack of Mark Waugh cannot have panicked the England captain. At Essex, after all, Waugh's bowling is an emergency option at best.

His dismissal of Gooch with his second ball was decisive, for it exposed the tense Smith, who once more perished to a stiff-wristed shot. Peter Taylor's flighted off cracks took two wickets with consecutive balls and England, having been 93 for two, were suddenly 147 for eight.

Bicknell, whose clean hitting has been a feature of several of these games, scored a brisk 23. Then Angus Fraser, a still more implausible batting hero, took over. Down came the target, from 31 in three overs to 19 in two, 11 in one, and then four from the last ball. Poor Tufnell simply had to be on strike: it was sort of game for him. Of course, he heaved and missed. The last pair had put on 43 in 34 balls and nearly, but not quite, given England a chance of some spoils from this increasingly deflating tour.

Australia had made their most laboured start of the



Agony and ecstasy: Healy, the Australian wicketkeeper, celebrates the dismissal of Stewart, bowled by Taylor

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

Australia won toss

	42	56	46	Mins	Balls
D C Boon c Small b DeFreitas	42	—	2	10	64
G R Marsh c Stewart b Bicknell	7	—	29	22	—
Edged leg cutter to wicketkeeper	—	—	—	—	—
D M Jones c Stewart b Bicknell	2	—	8	7	—
Played back off gloves down leg side	—	—	—	—	—
"A R Boster" c Larkins b Small	10	—	1	33	30
Pulled ball to deep mid-wicket	—	—	—	—	—
M E Waugh run out (Smith)	36	1	—	64	46
Unsettled taking short single	—	—	—	—	—
S R Waugh not out	65	—	4	106	82
S P O'Donnell c Bicknell b Gooch	7	—	19	13	—
High slog to deep mid-wicket	—	—	—	—	—
I A Healy not out	50	—	2	54	37
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1)	3	—	—	—	—
Total (6 wickets, 60 overs, 212 mins)	222	—	—	—	—

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Boon 7 not out, 2-16 (Boon 7), 3-40 (Boon 20), 4-61 (M E Waugh 19), 5-112 (S R Waugh 19), 6-127 (S R Waugh 21).

BOWLING: Fraser 10-2-39-0 (6-2-11-0, 4-0-28-0; Bicknell 5.5-0-33-2 (w) (8-0-27-2, 1-5-0-0-0; Small 10-2-50-1 (6-2-12-1, 3-0-14-0, 2-0-24-0; Tufnell 3-4-29-0 (one spell); DeFreitas 7.1-0-37-1 (nb) (5-0-17-1, 1-1-0-0-0, 1-0-12-0; Gooch 10-3-31-1 (one spell).

ENGLAND

	37	—	46	Mins	Balls
G A Gooch c Healy b M E Waugh	37	—	1	100	76
Tried to run ball through slips	—	—	—	—	—

I A Healy b Alderman	26	—	3	38	29
Attempted to hit ball over leg field	—	—	—	—	—
W Larkins b Alderman	0	—	—	2	2
Played down wrong line	—	—	—	—	—
I A Healy b Taylor	55	—	3	102	65
Attempted flick from off to leg	—	—	—	—	—
R A Smith b M E Waugh	7	—	—	21	19
Chopped ball on to off stump	—	—	—	—	—
J E Morris c Healy b M E Waugh	10	—	1	13	14
Missed pull towards point	—	—	—	—	—
P A J DeFreitas c Boster b M E Waugh	6	—	1	14	13
Missed drive to short mid-wicket	—	—	—	—	—
G C Small b Taylor	0	—	—	1	1
Defensive shot missed ball	—	—	—	—	—
M P Bicknell c Alderman b S R Waugh	23	—	2	33	31
Slid to backward point	—	—	—	—	—
A R C Fraser not out	38	1	4	52	47
Slid to backward point	—	—	—	—	—
P C R Tufnell not out	5	—	—	23	8
Extras (lb 6, w 5, nb 1)	12	—	—	—	—
Total (6 wickets, 60 overs, 204 mins)	219	—	—	—	—

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39 (Gooch 13 not out, 2-39 (Gooch 13), 3-93 (Stewart 26), 4-119 (Stewart 45), 5-138 (Stewart 55), 6-142 (DeFreitas 2), 7-142 (DeFreitas 2), 8-148 (Bicknell 0), 9-176 (Fraser 2).

BOWLING: Alderman 9-2-31-2 (nb) (w) (8-2-24-2, 1-0-7-0); Bickmann 7-0-52-0 (w) (4-0-34-0, 3-0-26-0; O'Donnell 7-0-28-0 (w) (one spell); S R Waugh 7-1-25-1 (w) (4-0-17-0, 3-1-8-1); M E Waugh 10-0-37-4 (nb) (one spell); Taylor 10-1-40-2 (one spell).

Man of the match: I A Healy

Umpires: L J King and R J Evans

Australia won by 3 runs

FINALS: Jan 12: Australia v New Zealand (Sydney); Jan 15: Australia v New Zealand (Melbourne); Jan 17 (if required): Australia v New Zealand (Melbourne).

Two Welsh teenagers will face England

By GERALD DAVIES

AMONG the four new caps in the Welsh rugby union team announced yesterday, are two 19-year-olds, Neil Jenkins and Scott Gibbs, who are not only playing their first year at senior club level but are continuing an association which began when they started playing mini rugby together as eight-year-olds in Pontypridd. In their first year out of youth rugby Gibbs has impressed with his forceful play in Neath's midfield and Jenkins has already earned many a deserving accolade for his mature tactical play for Pontypridd.

Despite their consistent good play it was thought they might benefit more by having any further elevation delayed a season. But clearly Ron Waldron, the team manager, and his fellow selectors, Tony Gray and David Richards, feel that if they are good enough,

they are old enough.

The other new internationals are the flankers, Glen George and Alun Carter. The former was largely expected to be included, but Carter, who was not in the squad two weeks ago, was the one to raise most eyebrows in a team which was expected to contain a few surprises. These selections are not only due reward for playing consistently well, but is an acknowledgement also, of the resurgence of their club, Newport. Carter, who will play on the open side, captained the Welsh Schools grand slam team of 1983.

"This indicates the value," Waldron said, "of our new selection and advisory system. We keep a watching brief on all our players in Wales and we have been impressed with Carter's performance in recent weeks and in his attitude and performance during this week's squad session."

Paul Arnold, a lock, has been chosen at No. 8 for, although he has played in the past, has not played in this season. His three other caps were at lock, against Namibia, twice, and against the Barbarians in October. He is one of 17 new caps which Waldron has introduced to the team since he took over as manager after the England match last season. Of the forward back five only Gareth Llewellyn has played against an international board country.

The choice of two brothers, Glyn and Gareth Llewellyn, in the second row, is a quiz-master's delight. When did two brothers last play for Wales? Answer: Richard and Paul Moriarty against Ireland in the World Cup. When did two locks from the same club play for Wales? Answer: H and D L Thomas, also from Neath against England in 1937. They might have been

brothers, too. The interchange between Arnold and Gareth Llewellyn will introduce variety into Wales's lineout schemes.

Only six players remain from the team which lost to the Barbarians in October, five from last year's Twickenham match and only three from the equivalent game two years ago.

If Neath players make up half the pack, the spread of the club players is not as predominant as once seemed likely. Robert Jones gets the scrum half place ahead of Chris Bridges, of Neath.

With so much that is untried in front of him and a teenager outside him, Jones's wealth of experience will matter a great deal. Paul Thorburn is the captain, Kevin Phillips his club colleague, the pack leader.

This, with so much emphasis on youth, clearly represents a new start for Wales and any

Knee injury forces Hall to withdraw

JOHN Hall, the Bath flanker, has withdrawn from the England team to play Wales on January 19 (David Hands writes). Hall damaged his right knee in a tackle during squad training in Lanzarote on Saturday and underwent an arthroscopic examination in Bath on Wednesday.

With the examination indicating cartilage damage, Hall is not expected to be fit for three weeks. He would be available for selection against Scotland on February 16.

Either Mickey Skinner, who occupied Hall's place at the weekend, or Mike Teague, is the likely replacement. Richard Hill, the England scrum half, has dropped out of Bath's side to play Moseley tomorrow because of a hand injury but is expected to play against Wales.

Firm optimistic, page 33



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